Aim High, No Limits

Anstey Junior School Prospectus

'A brilliant school highly focussed on the children's needs.'
Parent, 2024

Welcome

Welcome to Our School:
A Place of Growth and Opportunity

At our school, we are dedicated to providing a curriculum that not only broadens our children's skills but also ignites their passion for lifelong learning. Our educational approach is designed to offer diverse opportunities and enriching experiences that inspire curiosity and creativity, preparing our children for a bright future.

Central to our ethos are the Nurture and Thrive approaches, which emphasise the importance of supporting our children's social and emotional development. We believe that a strong foundation in these areas is essential for academic success and personal wellbeing. Our Pupil Wellbeing Team, which includes a Family Support Worker, a qualified ELSA practitioner, and Thrive practitioners, is committed to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive. All our staff are trained in the Thrive approach, equipping them to foster a nurturing environment where children can flourish.

We recognise that collaboration with families is vital to achieving the best outcomes for our children. By working closely together, we establish shared goals that empower our children to overcome any barriers to learning. Inclusion is a cornerstone of our school community, and we take pride in creating an environment where every child feels valued and supported, enabling them to make good progress at their own pace.

Kindness is at the heart of our school culture. We encourage our children to develop respectful relationships with their peers and adults alike, fostering a sense of community and belonging.
Our motto, "Aim High, No Limits," reflects our aspiration for every child to dream big and understand that their goals are within reach when they engage fully in the opportunities and experiences we provide.

We are immensely proud of our children and all that we achieve together. As we embark on this journey, we invite you to join us in nurturing a generation of confident, compassionate and capable learners who are ready to make their mark on the world.

Welcome to our school community, where together, we can create an environment where every child can flourish and achieve their dreams.

Emma Humphrey
Headteacher

'We could not ask for a more nurturing, caring and welcoming environment for our child. Thank you for all your hard work.'

Parent, 2024

Our Vision

Our vision for all of our children and their families is built on the following key principles:

Belonging: We encourage our children to treat one another with kindness and respect, fostering a culture of integrity and honesty. We believe that these values are essential for building strong relationships and a supportive community. Our school celebrates diversity and is committed to creating an inclusive environment where every child feels a sense of belonging. We embrace different cultures, perspectives and experiences, recognising that they enrich our community and enhance the learning experience. We recognise the importance of collaboration, both within our school and with our wider community. We actively engage with parents, local organisations and other stakeholders to create a rich network of support for our children.

Learning: We strive for excellence in all that we do, encouraging our children to set high aspirations for themselves. Our dedicated staff work tirelessly to provide a broad and stimulating curriculum within a vibrant learning environment that challenges and inspires every learner to reach their goals. The experiences and opportunities we provide both excite and engage our learners to deepen their understanding and broaden their skills.

Wellbeing: At the heart of our school is a commitment to fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child feels valued and empowered. We enable this through our Nurture and Thrive approaches and with the support of our Pupil Wellbeing Team. We believe that education is not just about academic achievement, but also about personal growth and character development.

Resilience: We instil a love of learning in our children, encouraging them to be curious, open-minded, and resilient. We believe that education is a lifelong journey, and we equip our children with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. We encourage and support children to embrace challenge and show perseverance when learning is tricky, allowing them to experience the wonderful feeling of eventual success!

'Thank you for everything you do and especially for how you have supported our daughter.' ***Parent, 2024***

'There are not enough words to express how grateful we are to you for welcoming our family into your school, with such love and kindness. It really is down to everyone at Anstey – staff and pupils, that we have our confident, capable and happy daughter back. A million thank yous are not even enough!' ***Parent, 2024***

School Day

The school gates open at 8.35am and pupils are greeted by senior members of staff and our Family Support Worker. The school day starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.25pm. Anstey Junior School offers wraparound child care arrangements; the early morning breakfast club starts at 7.45am and an after-school club runs until 5.45pm.

Pupils are expected to attend school in school uniform or PE kit on PE days. We have a uniform swap shop available for the school community to use, it is open every day and has a great supply of pre-loved school uniform for families to take whatever they need.

Classroom Environment

Our classrooms are bright and safe welcoming spaces that are fully equipped with laptops, interactive white boards and resources needed to learn in a rapidly changing world. We have additional resources available to all pupils including; tablets, musical instruments and specialised mixed media art and DT materials. Upper school pupils have lockers to help prepare them for their transition to secondary school.

We have a phonics and reading scheme to develop early reading skills and a fantastic, fully equipped library with current, quality and diverse texts that are regularly refreshed. We have wonderful volunteers who enjoy listening to children read in school, including a Pets as Therapy dog! Anstey has established a consistent approach to guided reading, this takes place 5 times a week to support and develop pupils' comprehension skills. We provide opportunities for children to acquire a love of reading for pleasure and even have visits from authors and illustrators.

Beyond the Classroom

We believe that all children should have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and talents while at Anstey. We know children learn best from first-hand, practical experiences. We offer a large selection of free clubs at varying times of the day to ensure there is something for everyone, these often include sports clubs and art clubs, along with many other fun activities.

While at Anstey, all pupils in Year 4 will learn a musical instrument and perform as an orchestra, there is also an opportunity to continue specialist music lessons* Pupils also take part in swimming lessons and Bikeability. All pupils are given the opportunity to make positive memories at school by spending time outside and even roasting marshmallows at our fire pit, den building or gardening. We offer quality residential experiences, these are a great opportunity to create character-building moments in a safe and structured setting while making memories to last a lifetime! We encourage pupils to actively join in our wide range of teacher led clubs or take part in the Junior Duke programme.*

*at a cost

Beyond

Outdoor Environment

At Anstey, we aim to inspire and develop children's curiosity and love of the world in which they live. We recognise the importance of giving children time and space in the outside world. We know there are benefits for children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as having opportunities for learning in ways that cannot be achieved inside the traditional classroom. We have spacious grounds that contain two large playgrounds with accessible adventure play equipment, an outdoor classroom, sensory garden, climbing wall, two large fields and a woodland nature trail where children can build dens.

Pupils are able to apply learning from inside the classroom, such as the life cycle of animals and plants, into a real-life context through exploring our garden areas. Through time together in our school grounds, the children will develop not only their knowledge of the world but also work on their team building and social skills. We aim to give children a range of experiences that they may not receive in the wider areas of their life, so that they can begin to understand and develop practical and social skills that will support them in their time at school and into their adult lives.

Relationships

We pride ourselves on our open communication with all stakeholders involved with Anstey including; pupils, parents, carers, governors, staff, PTA and volunteers. We always have senior members of staff available for parents to talk to at school drop off and we have a very friendly and helpful office team who are available to assist. Our Family Support Worker can often signpost families to additional support too.

There are a wide selection of roles of responsibility available for pupils in all year groups. This means pupils have a valued voice in key decisions across Anstey and a real sense of belonging. These roles could include being senior or head pupil, a school council representative, an Eco group representative, a buddy, a house captain, a reading champion, junior librarian or a junior road safety officer.

We know the transition of pupils from infant school and to secondary school is an exciting and important time, but for many children it can be a daunting prospect. Therefore, we deliver an enhanced transition by working in partnership with local schools. There are often additional opportunities for local schools to work together, enabling Anstey pupils to use specialist facilities and foster positive relationships.

'One of the things I like most about our school is that we have lots of playground space and equipment.' ***Pupil, 2024***

Recognition

At Anstey Junior School, we are committed to creating a safe environment where good behaviour enables everyone to feel secure and respected. Everyone in our school is expected to maintain high standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their behaviour and encourage others to do the same. We recognise that children may be at different stages of social development and aim to provide an environment where children can learn and grow as caring and responsible individuals through a consistent approach to supporting positive behaviours and secure relationships.

We love to celebrate and recognise when pupils do well. This could be by awarding house points, receiving in-class rewards, certificates, letters or phone calls home, senior or head pupil, receiving an Aim High Award or having hot chocolate with the Headteacher for pupils who consistently make good choices.

Wider Community

Our school is deeply committed to playing a full and active role within the wider Alton community. We have well-established and flourishing partnerships with local schools and other organisations. Pupils are actively involved in a range of community and charity programmes, such as helping out in a nearby nursery school, taking part in local sports competitions, supporting the Dementia Friendly group, visiting local care homes or raising money for many worthwhile charities. These activities foster our sense of social responsibility and how we all belong to the wider Alton community. In an increasingly digital world, online safety is paramount for our pupils and their families therefore, we frequently communicate to parents ways to support their families in keeping safe online.

Pupil Wellbeing Team

We have a Pupil Wellbeing Team dedicated to supporting the needs of all pupils. Our Pupil Wellbeing Team works together with the whole Anstey team to provide different kinds of emotional and pastoral support to children and families in school. This includes our Family Support Worker, Nurture group, ELSA, Thrive practitioners and Senior Mental Health Lead.

Mental health and wellbeing is extremely important to us at Anstey. We aim to promote positive mental health for all pupils. We pursue this aim through both whole-school approaches within the curriculum and school environment as well as specific, targeted interventions aimed at vulnerable pupils. We know that supporting positive mental health and wellbeing during school years is key. Therefore, it is our duty as education providers to ensure our mental health provision is thorough for our pupils at Anstey in order to identify and support any issues at an early stage.

'We are very pleased with the school and really appreciate everyone's hard work. Thank you for providing all the extra fun things e.g. TTRS Day, the pantomimes etc. as these events really boost the children's interest and learning.' ***Parent, 2024***

Our ELSA, Nurture and Thrive programmes are run by trained staff, our whole school approach helps pupils learn about their emotions and regulate their own behaviour. At Anstey, we promote a joined-up approach to supporting each child's emotional and social need that is designed to maximise pupils' ability to engage fully with learning in the classroom and create successful learners.

The Curriculum

At Anstey, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum which helps children develop a range of skills and understanding to prepare and equip them for the ever-changing world they live in. The school's vision statement and values, which are based around the key concepts of learning, resilience, wellbeing and belonging, underpin our curriculum design. In line with the National Curriculum, and through many carefully planned and rich opportunities, we strive to foster and develop life-long learners who are inquisitive and curious. In partnership with our PTA, we often have experiences that will enrich pupils' learning. In the past these have included a professional visiting pantomime, inflatable planetarium and themed topic days which really bring learning to life

We aim to nurture children so that they become resilient and adaptable in their learning and flexible to change. With a focus on first-hand experiences, we aim to develop independent learners who are taught to hone their questioning skills. Our commitment to working within our local community focuses on developing responsible and ethical citizens, who learn to treat others with respect and understanding. At Anstey, we are ambitious for all pupils and support them to attain high levels of personal and academic achievement. We live by our motto of 'Aim High, No Limits' and have shown that we achieve above national figures for the percentage of children achieving Greater Depth Standard in core subjects, by the end of key stage 2.

Eco School

We are proud to be a green flag Eco School, we take action on climate change and encourage our pupils to identify opportunities where we can reduce, reuse or recycle. The Eco representatives were part of developing our wonderful uniform swap shop that is free and encourages the school community to reuse and recycle school uniform, reducing the quantity of school uniform going to landfill.

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