

School Context

Acacias Community Primary School



Acacias CPS is situated in the area of Burnage, some 4 miles south of the centre of Manchester and close to the Stockport boundary. The area is predominantly 1930's semi-detached housing and whilst mainly privately owned there is also a fairly large local authority housing estate from which the school draws pupils. The school population reflects the local area and over 65% of children have English as an additional language.

BUILDING AND SITE

There has been a school on this site since the early part of the 20th century and it has always played a central role in the local community. In February 2012 the school moved into a brand new purpose built building which is attached to Levenshulme High School. The school has extensive grounds and children enjoy taking their learning outside the classroom.

PUPILS

Pupils come from a mixture of social and cultural backgrounds and are representative of the local community. Pupil numbers have remained stable with very little fluctuation from year to year. There are currently approximately 470 pupils on roll of which over 60% have English as an Additional Language. The percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals has increased significantly over lockdown and is now 25%.

STAFF AND GOVERNORS

The school has a structure of 16 classroom based teachers, supported by a number of part time and full time teachers who cover PPA time, deliver interventions and teach specialist subjects. Specialist teachers include a full

time SEN teacher, a part time teacher trained in specific learning disorders, a full time maths specialist teacher (Numbers Count trained), a part time specialist music teacher. In addition we have a non-teaching Head and Deputy. The present management structure includes the Headteacher, a non-class based Deputy Headteacher, two Assistant Heads (one with KS management responsibility), an Inclusion Manager and three Key Stage Managers. There are a number of teaching assistants to support classes and all classes receive support each morning. In addition the school employs a number of additional Teaching Assistants to support children with particular learning needs.

The Governing Body of Acacias supports the school loyally and enthusiastically and has a clear vision for the successful future of the school. Governors are aware of new initiatives and their development in the school and many are prepared to attend training to improve their educational expertise, to initiate policies or reflect critically on existing or proposed policies presented to them.

Through various committees, governors are able to be more closely involved in planning, monitoring and reviewing educational targets and the financial management of the school. Visit days ensure governors have first-hand experience of the standards achieved by pupils.

COMMUNITY

The school aims to provide an orderly, caring community in which all children can learn and understand in a happy, secure atmosphere. OFSTED says 'Pupils across the school are polite and well behaved. In lessons, pupils show a determination to do their best.'
'Through lessons and assemblies, staff teach pupils to respect and value others. As a result, pupils told me that bullying is very rare and teachers quickly deal with any misbehaviour.'

The partnership with parents, carers and the community and their involvement in the children's learning is strong. Favourable comments have been made about the approachability of teachers and other staff, who are receptive to concerns and open to suggestions for improvements. Ofsted says 'Parents commonly talked about the efforts staff make to support pupils' learning and well-being. A typical comment was 'The staff are incredibly hardworking and enthusiastic, and always have time to speak to parents about any concerns.'

A number of volunteers assist in the classroom where the teachers value their expertise. This help is particularly effective with pupils whose attainment is low.

Why do you like working at Acacias? (Staff)

These speech bubbles represent a selection of staff views.

Acacias is a school that promotes inclusion of children with diverse needs and I want to be involved in helping children to progress.

I like working at Acacias because it has family feel where everyone looks out for each other. The staff are very knowledgeable, approachable and will always offer their help. Also, I enjoy the fact that we have such a diverse community.

I like working at Acacias because the children are extremely enthusiastic in their attitudes towards their learning.

The school is very well managed and resourced. Pupil behaviour is a strength within the school, with lots of support put in place to meet children's needs, socially, emotionally and academically, enabling them to develop and access their learning effectively. The children are happy and enjoy coming to school. It is a very safe building, with safeguarding practises firmly established.

Constant striving to provide the best for every child to enable them to reach their potential and become well rounded individuals, as well as feeling safe and valued as part of the school community. Wealth of staff skills and good resources that enable this to happen.

Acacias is a fantastic school and benefits from outstanding practice from top to bottom to provide children with the best possible education and opportunities. It is a brilliant working environment in all aspects.

What we like about Acacias (Pupils)

Year 1

All the teachers look after us.
We do meditation to keep ourselves calm.
The classrooms are lovely and tidy.
We have fun things to do like challenges.
We are all kind and we look after each other.
We have a computer suite.
We get to learn English and maths.
We have a lovely outdoor area.
We get to read cool stories.
We get to make lots of friends.
We learn phonics.
"It has lots of playgrounds." "Phonics"
"Lots of friends." "Everyone loves their friends"
We "learn a lot." "I like all my teachers and all my friends." "I like learning."

Year 6

Maths , English , play , science.
Great teachers
Lots of equipment/well resourced
Diverse range of students
Rights Respecting School
Support from adults
Good lessons
A nicely decorated building

LKS2

Year 4 going swimming
The teaching and the topics
The food at lunch

Our School

Year 2

We learn a lot.
We can make many things.
You can do lots of sports.
We do meditation every day.
You get rewarded for good behaviour.
Playtimes are fun and there's lots of equipment!
Most of the children treat each other kindly and are friendly.
Reading is a big part of our learning.
We (hope to) go on school trips

Year 5

It is a safe place. The teachers are kind
Good place to make new friends
We have a field and fun things to play on at breaktimes e.g. trim and challenge trail, we have four playgrounds, we have equipment at play times
The school accepts lots of different people e.g. boys and girls, children with additional needs
Teachers believe in the students and that they can do it, they always help and are always understanding
Children and teachers help each other
It's not next to the road so it is quieter
The Treehouse - there to help children with SEN so the school can help everybody
The school is big so we have lots of room
Playtime activities, especially the trim trail and challenge trail
Groups such as Pupil Parliament
We have different playgrounds for different key stages, we have a field
Computing lessons
I like having a suggestions box
We get to do science experiments
We have a range of sports activities
School dinners!