



# BEACON PRIMARY ACADEMY











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Dear Parent/Carer

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Beacon Primary Academy. I am sure you and your child are excited about starting at our new Academy in Skegness. The Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust and our staff team will ensure the highest standards of education possible for your child.

This brochure outlines the aims and general organisation of our Academy and provides a range of useful information.

The Beacon Primary Academy will provide quality education for children between the ages of 4 -11 and will grow on a year by year basis. When we are at capacity we will have a total of 210 pupils.

The Academy has a strong and clear vision and ethos that runs through the entire staff team and our children enjoy the challenges and real life experiences prepared for them. We value the partnership between home and the Academy and believe that this is an essential way of supporting the children with their learning.

Our staff team work closely together to foster a caring and supportive environment where all children will feel safe, secure and happy. We also aim to support our pupils in developing as independent, caring, thoughtful, sociable members of the community.

We are confident that the children in our Academy are happy and enthusiastic about learning with staff ensuring they reach their full potential through a varied curriculum, designed to provide them the knowledge and skills that they require to become successful and rounded adults.

Mrs C Wright  
Principal



## The Work of the Academy

The Academy will grow on a year by year basis and will eventually reach a maximum of 210 children in 7 classes (Reception to Y6). Reception children will work in the **Foundation Stage**. Year 1 and Year 2 will work in **Key Stage 1** and Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 will work in **Key Stage 2**. As well as our classroom teachers, additional support for children will be provided by our learning support assistants.

The curriculum describes everything that goes on in the Academy and helps children learn about the world around them. It is our aim to provide our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, involving learning inside and outside the Academy, promoting their social, moral, cultural and spiritual development and preparing them for the opportunities and experiences of life and society.

**The curriculum at the Beacon Primary Academy will also have a clear emphasis on developing life skills. We believe that these skills are essential for all children and that this is what prepares them for a successful future in whatever avenue they take. These life skills will range from showing respect and kindness towards others to basic cooking skills, riding a bike safely, knowing how to stay safe, basic first aid skills and so on.**

In **Foundation Stage**, the Academy follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which focuses on three Prime Areas and four Specific Areas of development.

The Prime Areas are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Education

The Specific Areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design

In **Key Stage 1** and **Key Stage 2**, our Academy will teach all aspects of the National Curriculum, aiming to make the learning interesting and meaningful. As children move through the Academy they will develop literacy and numeracy skills to a high level so that pupils will be ready for the next stage of their education.

The curriculum is delivered through a topic led approach where different subject areas are linked to create opportunities for children not only to be taught new skills but also to apply those skills already acquired. Pupils are encouraged to become independent learners.

The Academy uses a balance of whole class, group and individual teaching strategies to ensure that pupils are taught in appropriate ability groups and that the teacher's time is used effectively.

Assessment is carried out regularly across the curriculum in all subject areas in order to monitor and track the progress of each individual child and to aid future progression. Formal and informal assessments take place on a daily basis through observation, classroom interaction and guided activities.

Children are given individual targets that will help them focus on personal next steps in learning and aid progress.





## Homework

Homework is an important part of supporting you child at the Academy. Homework is not intended to be onerous but it does help support a child's progress and will include reading at home and may include spellings or short tasks. Not all homework will be written tasks. It may be a practical activity for you to enjoy with your child.

## Children with Special Needs

We recognise that certain children may have additional needs at some time in their academic career. They may need more help in some aspects of learning than would normally be the case. We always contact parents directly whenever we have a concern regarding a child's educational development and seek their permission if there is a need to use skills and knowledge of other agencies, for example Speech Therapists or Educational Psychologists. We hold regular reviews with parents to monitor children's progress.

## More Able and Talented Pupils

If a child is identified as being 'more able', provision to extend and cater for their needs will be met via the class teacher, highlighting and planning for this in their weekly plans. A register of more able and talented children is kept so that their needs may also be met appropriately. We always challenge all children so that they reach their full potential.

## Pupil Academy Council

The Academy Council is an opportunity for the pupils of the Academy to have a voice and make decisions. The Council will meet regularly to discuss issues important to our children. Each class will be represented by two regularly elected children. The Council will also meet regularly with those from other local Academies.



## Educational Visits

We believe that children learn better from first hand experiences. We will regularly build into topics a visit to local sites of interest. Staff carry out a risk assessment prior to the visit and we ensure that appropriate adult to pupil ratios are maintained to minimise risks. Parents are asked to sign a general consent form for local trips and a specific form for those visits organised for further away.

We cannot include children on any visit if we do not have a consent form signed by the parent. The Education Reform Act 1988, allows us to request voluntary contributions to help towards the cost of any visit.



## Breakfast Club

The Greenwood Academies Trust is aware of the need to offer parental support by providing extended school opportunities.

The Beacon Primary Academy will provide a Breakfast Club from 8.00am each day. Our Breakfast Club is very popular and the children really enjoy the welcoming atmosphere that greets them when they arrive. Places for our Breakfast Club can be booked at the office.

## Clubs

We have a range of clubs that the children can attend. We try to ensure that each child has the choice of at least one club per week. All clubs finish at 4pm.

## Acts of Worship-Parent's Rights

In our Academy some assemblies may involve an act of worship, which is broadly Christian, but also includes material from other faiths and secular sources. Parents may request the withdrawal of their child from attendance at collective worship by informing the Academy in writing.





## Behaviour and the Academy Code of Conduct

We believe that our Academy should be a happy and secure place in which all individuals learn to respect themselves, others and the environment in which they work and play. The children are involved in discussions about their class rules during the year. High expectations of behaviour and a positive attitude to others are expected at all times. This is supported by all members of our staff team who are also expected to set the very best example to the children. Being respectful to others is of paramount importance and the Wordle below has been created to highlight what our values and expectations are based on. We regularly talk to the children about using kind words and making good choices and they are all shown how to be respectful to each other.



The Academy's Behaviour Policy recognises the achievements and positive behaviour of our pupils and ensures that they are recognised, shared and celebrated in a variety of ways.

Our children come to our Academy to learn, to enjoy and to participate in a range of experiences. Unacceptable behaviour prevents all children in the Academy from doing this. We will involve parents in resolving any serious behaviour issues. We also encourage parents to inform us about any concerns they or their child have.

The Principal and staff aim to eliminate bullying. Any incidents of bullying will be taken very seriously and will be investigated fully and outcomes shared with parents.



## Equal Opportunities

At the Beacon Primary Academy it is our policy to provide an education which promotes equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination on grounds of gender, race or disability. The Academy is committed to the inclusion and education of all children and to providing equal opportunities for all children regardless of race, gender, intellectual or physical capability, social or cultural background.

This statement equally applies to the adults working in the Academy.

### Absence

The Academy is legally required to record reasons for children's absence. Absences are divided into two categories:-

- Authorised (allowed in law)
- Unauthorised (not allowed or unreasonable)

#### Authorised absences include:

1. Illnesses where we have a written or verbal reason from a parent.
2. Appointments at the doctor, hospital or dentist where the Academy has a written or verbal message from a parent in advance.
3. Absence because of an immediate member of family bereavement.

#### Unauthorised absences cover:

1. Keeping a child off to take them shopping.
2. Keeping a child off all day because they slept in.
3. Keeping a child off because he/she didn't want to come.
4. Keeping a child off because he/she has head lice.
5. Parents are unwell.
6. For a house move.
7. Child's or family member's birthday.
8. Family holidays.
9. Any absence without informing the Academy.

If your child is absent from the Academy please contact the office by 8.30am on the first day of his/her absence. If no notification has been received then the Academy will contact home by telephone then by letter. If we have concerns over regular lateness/absences then our Attendance Officer may be involved which could result in a fixed penalty.

Regular attendances will be rewarded with certificates and prizes. Each week we will publish our attendance information for each class. Each child (and class) should achieve a minimum of 95% attendance. Where this is not the case, parents will be contacted, the issues discussed and the necessary actions taken.

#### Holiday Requests

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 have removed the reference to holidays during term time and now provides that a leave of absence during term time will only be granted where an application is made in advance to the Academy and the Academy consider that the leave of absence should be granted due to exceptional circumstances relating to that application. What amounts to 'exceptional circumstances' is a matter for the discretion of the Principal and should be judged on a case by case basis but it is unlikely to amount to an exceptional circumstance if it is merely claimed that a holiday abroad can only be afforded in term time or that a parent is unable to take leave during school holidays.



## Lunchtimes

Our lunches are provided by an outside catering company who cater specifically for schools. The food is nutritious and varied and all Reception, Y1 and Y2 children will be entitled to a meal, free of charge. Your child is also welcome to bring a packed lunch to school if they prefer. Regardless of what the children choose to eat for lunchtime, they always get the opportunity to sit with their friends.

At lunchtimes the children are supported by our team of midday supervisors, who will help and encourage the children to eat their lunch and play nicely with their friends.

***If you think you might be eligible for Free School Meals then we encourage you to apply. You do not need to take up the entitlement every day, however every child who is registered for free school meals will also get additional money from the government to spend on their education. It is important that we have the maximum possible amount to support your child's learning. If you would like any support filling in the necessary paperwork, we will be happy to help.***

## Parental Involvement and Support

***Working together with parents is very important to us and we would like to create a close working relationship with our parents. We want you to feel a part of your child's learning journey.***

- We hold parent consultation meeting three times a year where parents are invited to discuss, on an individual basis, the work their child is involved with.
- Parents are invited to regular events throughout the Academy year such as regular curriculum events, Christmas performances, other concerts, celebration assemblies, sports day and to support the trips.
- We are always grateful for parental help which supports the teaching we do in the Academy. There are many ways parents can support us, hearing children read, looking after resources and helping with fund raising events. Please do talk to a member of staff if you are interested as we would really like you to be involved.
- We will also send out regular newsletters to keep parents informed. If you have any concerns, please talk to a member of staff-most problems can be easily sorted out.
- We have an Academy website so please use this to access other useful information. [www.beaconprimaryacademy.org](http://www.beaconprimaryacademy.org)
- You can also follow us on Twitter. This is regularly updated and gives you a taste of the learning experiences that are available to our children.

**@BeaconGDFT**



## The Academy Uniform

The Beacon Primary Academy has strict guidelines on dress and all pupils are expected to wear full Academy uniform. The wearing of our distinctive uniform gives pupils a sense of 'belonging' and helps foster a pride in the Academy.

### The uniform for Reception and Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 comprises:

- Academy polo shirt with logo and collar stripes (plain white polo shirts may also be worn)
- Grey trousers or skirt or pinafore dress (jeans and cords are not allowed)
- Academy pullover or cardigan, in purple, with the Academy logo
- Grey socks with trousers, grey or white socks or grey tights with skirts
- Academy book bag
- Plain black shoes (not trainer style) - no heels



### The uniform for pupils in Years 5 and 6 comprises:

- Plain white school shirt (not polo shirt)
- Academy tie
- Grey trousers or skirt or pinafore dress (jeans and cords are not allowed)
- Academy pullover or cardigan, in purple, with the Academy logo
- Grey socks with trousers, grey or white socks or grey tights with skirts
- Academy book bag
- Plain black shoes (not trainer style) - no heels.

For the summer grey shorts may be worn by the boys and girls may wear a summer dress in the Academy colours (purple and white checked).

### PE Kit

- Black shorts with the Academy logo
- Purple sports polo shirt with black panels and Academy logo
- Suitable plain black and white trainers or other PE footwear
- Academy PE bag

### Parents are asked to provide:

- Suitable mid grey trousers or skirt or pinafore dress
- Suitable socks or tights
- Sensible black shoes (not boots or trainers)
- Suitable footwear for PE
- A warm coat (not denim) for travelling to and from the Academy



## Safeguarding

Child Protection: Named Person: Mrs C Wright-Principal

Parents should be aware that the Academy has a duty to take reasonable action to ensure the welfare and safety of all its pupils. In cases where Academy staff have cause to be concerned that a pupil may be subject to ill-treatment, neglect or other form of abuse, the Academy will follow our Safeguarding Procedures and inform Children Services of their concern.

All agencies, including the Academy, work together as a team to protect children.

## Changes in Circumstances

Parents are requested to keep the Academy informed of any changes in circumstances, e.g. change of address/workplace/telephone numbers/medical/emergency contacts, in order that contact during Academy hours can be made quickly should the necessity arise.

## Timings of the Day

**8.35am- Gates open**

**8.45am- Start of the Academy Day**

**12pm-1pm- Lunch**

**3.15pm- End of the Academy Day**



## Collection of Children

The safety and well-being of the pupils at our Academy are a priority and this includes procedures to ensure this at the end of the day. We ask all parents to inform the Academy of any changes in people collecting your child.

Staff will NOT release children into the custody of any unknown person.

Also, please be aware that it is against the Academy policy to release your child into the care of siblings under the age of 14 years old, (parental permission is required for those over 14 years of age).

## A final word...!

Staff and pupils at the Beacon Primary Academy are very proud to be a part of this exciting and unique learning opportunity. We are really looking forward to welcoming your child into our Academy and we would also encourage you to come and visit us.

The Beacon Primary Academy is part of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust of Academies



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# BE INSPIRED

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