



# VAN GOGH PRIMARY

## Reception and Nursery Applications

September 2020 entry



*“Working together,  
with families and the  
wider community, to  
support the  
development of  
well-rounded  
young people”*



*"The children love coming to school - they skip into the playground."*

Reception Parent

# Welcome

Here at Van Gogh, we are passionate about creating excellence in everything we do and believe that every child deserves the best start.

From the day a child is born, they are learning. As they continue to develop, the world becomes more of an intriguing place, and it is our responsibility to provide safe and supportive opportunities for them to explore and discover in order to develop their knowledge and skills. We do this with our rich and vibrant resources, well-invested outdoor areas and highly skilled educators who enjoy creating awe and wonder!

Working with families is important to us and maintaining positive pathways of communication is key. Ensuring a child is happy and safe is our constant non-negotiable, and collaborating with families makes this possible.

I would like to personally invite you and your child to join us on the most important and exciting learning journey within an unquestionable warm and loving environment. I am confident you will not be disappointed!

**Nadine Bernard, Head of School**



*We are delighted to have Van Gogh Primary as part of our family of schools. The school's aim is 'Creating Excellence' and it has already done much of which it can be very proud.*

*As a parent, you want to be confident that your child will be known at school as well as you know them at home. Van Gogh's two sites mean each feels like a small, safe and friendly school. Your child will be seen as the person they are rather than simply as one pupil in a class of many.*

*Exciting things are happening at Van Gogh. We look forward to sharing them with you.*

**David Boyle, CEO  
Dunraven Educational Trust**

# Aims and Ethos



Our focus is on 'Creating Excellence' for the whole school community. This begins in our Early Years Foundation Stage by ensuring that pupils make an excellent start, achieving standards of development which prepare them for their ongoing primary education.

We ensure that:

- Children develop a love of learning and a clear understanding of their needs as well as their responsibilities
- Children are supported in developing their independence, creativity and confidence
- Children develop their ability in the key areas of English and Mathematics to prepare them effectively for the demands of secondary school
- Children have access to a significant range of extra-curricular opportunities to enrich their school experience

# Values

We also want to help our children develop their capacity in a range of important character strengths to prepare them for their life ahead:

## **Ambition**

I can create excellence by setting high expectations for myself and others

## **Respect**

I can create excellence by respecting myself, others and the world around me

## **Collaboration**

I can create excellence by learning from and with my family, teachers, peers and community

## **Integrity**

I can create excellence by developing integrity, doing the right thing, even when nobody is watching!

## **Drive**

I can create excellence by working hard and putting effort into everything I do

## **Exploration**

I can create excellence by exploring facts, ideas and concepts

*"We want our children to become the very best they can be"*

Year 5 Teacher



# Curriculum

Van Gogh Primary's broad and balanced curriculum, combined with dynamic teaching, engages children in their learning, thereby nurturing the self-motivation and independence required for success.

Children are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first-hand experiences in which they explore, think creatively and are active learners. We aim to foster positive attitudes towards learning, as well as develop confidence, communication skills and physical development.

In order to develop well-rounded young adults, we place a strong emphasis on a broad and balanced curriculum. Music, swimming and PE are taught by specialist teachers to ensure the very best outcomes for all.

*"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you."*

B.B.King

Our approach:

## HOOK, LINE AND THINKER

- HOOK

Our thematic approach to the curriculum immerses pupils into their topic which allows depth and breadth within their learning. Trips or events are planned every half-term to HOOK children at the start of their topic which encourages their curiosity and provides them with a rich and cultural learning experience.

- LINE

In response to the HOOK, the children, teachers and supporting adults, identify LINES of enquiry. What do they already know? What would they like to find out? What will the children learn?

- THINKER

We have exceptionally high expectations for our children and therefore we do not want to simply meet the minimum curriculum expectations. Consequently we challenge children to extend, deepen and develop their skills and knowledge through our THINKERS.

At the end of each topic, the children's work is celebrated with a 'Fantastic Finish' which showcases the children's excellent commitment to learning over the half term.

# Early Years Foundation Stage

Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. We have an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observation of children's needs, interests, and stages of development across the seven areas of learning to enable the children to achieve and exceed the early learning goals.

All seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. The prime areas are: Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

Children are also supported through the four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. These specific areas are: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

## Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

We put our children at the centre of their own learning and place great emphasis on nurturing skills and attitudes such as self-discipline, ambition, integrity and collaboration. Our teachers bring the National Curriculum to life by making links between the individual subjects and applying them to topics such as in KS2: Who is Responsible for Looking After The Earth?

We work in partnership with 'The Literacy Tree' to engage children in all areas of English and continue to develop their love of reading. Mathematics is taught through an innovative approach called 'Effective Maths' that is committed to making maths fun and relevant for children to ensure that every child has a chance to excel.

Children have the opportunity to partake in competitions, events and concerts such as 'Young Voices', Lambeth Music Festival and athletics competitions. We also partner with local organisations, such as the London Connected Learning Centre, Lambeth Music Service and local artists to enrich the children's experiences.

# Working with Parents

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping their children to learn. At Van Gogh Primary, we do all we can to inform parents about what and how their children are learning by:

- Holding 'Meet the Teacher' appointments at the beginning of each academic year
- Sending information at the start of each term, which outlines the topics that the children will be studying
- Keeping the website and Twitter up to date
- Sending a regular newsletter to parents
- Informal coffee mornings
- Explaining to parents how they can support their children with home learning
- Inviting parents to share class assemblies and whole school events
- Holding parents' evenings each full term
- Sending annual reports

Parents support their child's learning in school by:

- Promoting a positive attitude towards school and learning
- Ensuring that their child has the best attendance record possible
- Ensuring that their child is equipped for school with the correct uniform and PE kit
- Informing school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour
- Supporting their child in extending their learning beyond the classroom, e.g. through home learning
- Fulfilling the requirements set out in the Home School Agreement which is reviewed regularly by the school and sent out to all new families

# Positive Behaviour

We know that children are happier and more secure in a calm and well-disciplined environment. We manage the children's behaviour in a fair and positive manner, appropriate to the age of the child and the incident. As the children grow, we aim to help them to develop a greater sense of responsibility for themselves and others and ultimately achieve a form of discipline that is self-motivated.

Our school values (Ambition, Respect, Collaboration, Integrity, Drive, and Exploration) are fundamental drivers which influence our approach to positive behaviour management.

One way we promote positive behaviour is through our house point system. This is led by house captains who inspire and motivate their peers to earn house points for their positive behaviour and learning. Pupils are also rewarded at the end of each half term for coming to school every day and behaving in a positive manner. Such rewards include a visit to the cinema, a school disco and a magic show.

*"Intelligence plus character - that is the true goal of education"*

Martin Luther King, Jr





Plato said,  
"The most effective kind  
of education is to play  
amongst lovely things",  
that is why we are  
transforming our school  
learning environment.

# Extra Curricular

We provide an After School Club every day from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. At our After School Club, children can take part in a wide range of fun activities. Pupils are also provided with the opportunity to participate in free after school music tuition and sports training.

# Inclusion

Committed to being an inclusive school, we foster an ethos in which every child is motivated to strive for success and achieve his or her best, regardless of ability or background. Van Gogh Primary is committed to providing equality of opportunity and is a community that values its ethnic and cultural diversity. By getting to know your child really well, we understand how each individual learns best. Those needing additional support (including children with special educational needs and disabilities or those for whom English is an additional language) receive support to ensure that they can access the curriculum fully and achieve their potential. This may be provided in the classroom, in small groups or one-to one.

We recognise that families are key partners in our school community and therefore encourage families to share any concerns or queries with us. Our Special Education Needs and Disability Coordinators (SENDCo) are Segolene Mathurin and Sarah Mannion.

# Admissions for September 2020 entry

Closing deadline for return of applications for Reception pupils is Wednesday 15 January 2020. Applications are made using the Common Application Form for your home Local Authority. Families should submit applications for Nursery pupils to the school office by the closing date Friday 24 April 2020.

See the Admissions Policy or our school website [www.vangoghprimary.org.uk](http://www.vangoghprimary.org.uk) for details



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Mr D Boyle  
BA, PGCE, NPQH, FRSA, FColIT, MloD

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Mrs N Bernard

Deputy Headteacher  
Ms T Kimberley

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