



Headteacher: Miss N Sirett

Our context

Alton Park Juniors is a large school in West Clacton. There are four classes in each year group and there are approximately 420 pupils on roll. The children transfer from Oakwood Infants School in year 3 and most children move on to Clacton Coastal Academy or Clacton County High School at the end of year 6. The community is close-knit and supportive, but has its challenges; our catchment includes some of the most deprived wards in England. Around two thirds of the children attract the pupil premium. The percentage of pupils on the SEND register is a little above average, although we are mindful to distinguish between additional needs and the impact of deprivation.

Most pupils enjoy school, work hard and value every opportunity that they have to learn and succeed. They are quick to build strong relationships with the staff and are proud to be part of the school community.

The school has extensive grounds and spacious accommodation.

The Staff

The staff is a good balance of youth and experience. Each year group is led by a senior leader or head of year. The leadership team comprises of headteacher, two deputy heads, two assistant heads (leading on maths and English) and heads of year.

Teachers plan in year group teams which have shared PPA time. There is a large team of learning support assistants and each class has a full-time LSA and others that support children with high needs. The pastoral team includes a family liaison officer and three learning mentors who work across the school, providing individual and small group support. There is a full-time SENCo, sports coach and forest school teacher. Other staff include technicians that assist with reprographics and displays.

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The Curriculum

At Alton Park, we follow the national curriculum. We have 6 key drivers for great teaching and learning:

- scaffolding - simplifying and deepening, using images and apparatus, dual coding
- vocabulary - technical and transferable words, a focus in all lessons
- engagement - practical and first hand experiences, Kagan strategies
- feedback - question techniques, timely actionable feedback
- retrieval and retention - quizzing, retrieval grids, spaced practice
- consistent approach - routines and strategies, sequential and interleaved learning

Developing reading fluency and a love of books is central to everything we do. Themes are often based on or linked to books. Natural curriculum links are exploited where applicable, while some subjects stand alone. We use the local area as a stimulus for learning, including the beach and the town.

Sigma Trust

Sigma Trust consists of 12 schools - 8 secondary and 4 primary. Alton Park Juniors joined Sigma Trust as a 'new school' in October 2019. The trust provides support from the central team and through collaborative working with other schools in the trust. The enhanced leadership structure at Alton Park is a strategy of the trust to promote the rapid development of the school.

Our Ethos

Personal education and well being is central to the life of the school. Staff are trained in trauma perceptive practice and we are implementing mindfulness into class routines. We work hard to develop links with a range of agencies so we can maximise the support we offer to all children. We are a highly inclusive school and we have a nurture group whose outcomes focus on the Essex Inclusion Framework. Our school rules are 'Be safe, be kind, be responsible, be ready'.