

Templars Academy



Together, we are greater



Welcome from the Headteacher

As Head Teacher at Templars Academy, I would to share our whole-school commitment to continually improving academic standards, behaviour and creativity.

Having joined Templars nearly four and a half years ago, I have seen it develop into a school with high aspirations for our pupils and with our Nursery, provide high quality and nurturing education from 2 years old to 11 years, and for those pupils in our alternative provision, Manor House. Our pupils are very familiar with our school environment and expectations, and this certainly supports their transition through primary school. I want all of our pupils to have the skills for life they will need, and this includes a strong emphasis on oracy and communication skills as well as etiquette to use in everyday life.

We are extremely lucky to have large grounds with lots of classroom space inside our school. Within this environment, we aim to allow every child to reach their own potential within a safe, secure and inspiring space, which emphasises the important values of individual responsibility, social awareness and understanding of diversity. We aim to achieve excellence, for pupils to develop an understanding of the significance of education and know what success feels like.

Victoria Gooding, Headteacher

Templars Academy is a busy but friendly school, with lots going on. This Prospectus aims to give you a taster of the school, as well as providing up to date information for parents, pupils and the wider community.

Please feel free to contact the school direct with any queries you may have.

Welcome to our School

'Together we are greater.'



At Templars Academy we are dedicated to achieving success, and celebrating this whatever it looks like. Children need to be happy and settled in school and this is why staff spend so much time getting to know our pupils and set expectations for a challenging curriculum. We are committed to providing learning that is meaningful and has longevity, providing children with life-skills. By working with our parents and community, we can all work together to achieve this.



We are an expanding primary school situated in Witham, Essex. We are 2-form entry and are gradually increasing in size, nearly at capacity in classes. We want our pupils to have the right learning behaviours and ethos to succeed, and we aim to challenge pupils at their own level to do this. We have a friendly and inviting atmosphere and provide children with a settled and caring environment where they can thrive.

As children leave us at Templars in year 6, we want them to look back on their journey as fulfilling, challenging and enjoyable. Moreover, our staff work hard to make the school purposeful and supportive and we hope that children feel pride in their time at Templars when they move to secondary school.

If you would like further information, documents are available on our school website.



Welcome to our School



Our vision and values represent how we work together as a strong community at Templars. We have recently changed our MAT vision to reflect our commitment to expectations: 'Fulfilling potential, fostering belief, seeking excellence'. Our school council created a child-friendly motto to represent this: 'Together we are greater'. Our values underpin the environment we create and the teaching and learning which prepares children to become successful, life-long learners.



At Templars, we aim...

To create an environment where children thrive, because they feel supported, know how to succeed, can articulate this, and see the purpose of what they are doing. We aim for our children, diverse in background and experience, to not just succeed in learning, but set themselves high ambitions for life.

Teaching and Learning



‘The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good and improving.’ (Ofsted 2019)

‘Pupils make good progress as they move through the school. Teachers’ high-quality feedback helps pupils take responsibility for improvements in their learning.’ (Ofsted 2019)’



In the curriculum, we consider the best ways to teach children, but this is always adapted to meet the needs of the class. Children will work as a whole class, as groups, individually and both theoretically and practically. Our curriculum is balanced to provide all of these experiences.

Children are taught knowledge and skills, but these should always be transferable and it is important that our pupils can apply what they have learned to different contexts. The learning engages and inspires pupils, whilst adapting to the needs of all of our pupils, from SEND pupils to higher level learners.



The way our curriculum is delivered each year is tailored to the needs of our classes. Whilst there are set non-negotiables and objectives children need to secure in each year group, we never sit still! Trips, visitors and themes change on a yearly basis. We monitor, evaluate, improve and adjust to support the learning experiences provided to our pupils. Most importantly, we want progress, achievement and success for our pupils.

Sports



‘Leaders have used the physical education (PE) and sport premium effectively in order to enrich the provision of sporting opportunities. As a result of the increased opportunities, more pupils take part in clubs and competitions. The positive values learned during sports clubs have also contributed to the positive ethos on the playground during playtime.’

Ofsted 2019



At Templars Academy, we aim for PE experiences to be beneficial to the children in terms of high quality, transferable skills they learn, and in supporting health and fitness. For some of our pupils, they extend their enjoyment of sports by attending some of our clubs and we have recently taken part in an increasing number of district tournaments. For other pupils, the teaching of PE helps them to experience sports they might not have taken part in before. We want PE to be a positive experience for our pupils and to allow them to develop a positive attitude towards sports and sportsmanship.



We provide our pupils with two hours of PE each week. At least one of these is taught by our specialist sports coach. Our PE lessons cater for a range of abilities and make use of our hall space, large outdoor spaces and equipment which is shared across our Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Our Sports Coach can often be seen on the playground at break times!

Swimming lessons usually take place in year 4.

Activities



‘Templars Academy is proud of the additional opportunities and experiences on offer to its children throughout their time with us...’

At Templars Academy, there are so many learning opportunities during the day. Some of these opportunities come at the end or start of the day through clubs, and some of them change throughout the year. For example, we have had performing arts, netball, funky fingers, yoga, art and animation club as a sample, running in 23-24. We are particularly proud of our public speaking, oracy competition.



Clubs

Our teachers and support staff willingly give up their time before and after school, or during their lunchtimes to run clubs. Teachers also offer tutoring, which is usually by invite. There is currently no charge for your child to attend an after-school club.

Additional Needs



‘The school works closely with parents throughout every stage of a child’s development...’

It is the school’s ambition to support each child in their learning journey and therefore, fulfil his or her own potential. At Templars Academy we endeavour to adapt the teaching that happens in class and beyond the classroom, to ‘break down barriers’ for children. Some of our pupils will access learning in different ways and meet particular challenges in their learning. Some children have specific educational difficulties which require support.

Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) are supported in our classrooms with appropriate ‘scaffolding’ to help them with their learning and sometimes with additional resources and equipment. The additional guidance of the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator will be used when appropriate. Our SENDCo is always available to talk to if you have concerns.

Pupils who have a high level of ability, broadly across the curriculum or in specific areas, will be challenged. We want children to succeed at every level, and we aim to nurture their talents.



Early Years Foundation Stage



'The ethos of the early years provision ensures that children value learning and achievement. Children learn independently and in groups without distraction. They enjoy the many opportunities teachers provide for them to explore what they are learning and take pleasure in learning something new.'

(Ofsted 2019)



Our Nursery is very much part of Templars Academy. From the very beginning of their time with us, our Nursery children feel like they are part of the school, wearing uniform and being part of whole school events. Our EYFS team work really closely, so there is a smooth transition to Reception. We want to provide every learning opportunity we can to build strong, independent learners, who love learning and have good communication skills. Our curriculum meets the needs of our pupils and through child-led and adult-led activities, our children are prepared and make meaningful links, for life.



Early Years Foundation Stage



'Starting in the nursery, early readers quickly gain a strong understanding of phonics. As they make the transition to Reception, the children apply what they know about phonics to their writing of complex sentences.' Ofsted 2019

Our Reception pupils develop a range of skills across the curriculum and Reception are very much part of the whole-school, from assemblies to lunch times.

The children learn through indoor and outdoor play, more formal lessons taught by teachers, small group work and through learning the physical skills that are essential to later learning. We aim to provide the most effective learning opportunities that we can. Stories, language and phonics are very important to us as we want our pupils to know that language and vocabulary gives them the power to say and write whatever they want.

Our EYFS pupils are entitled to free school meals, as are year 1 and 2, and they also get snack. Our pupils also have lessons from our specialist teachers, including PE.

All pupils are given the opportunity to begin school full time in September, following our induction process which begins in the Summer term before. Our induction process includes visits for both children and their parents to the school and Reception classrooms as well as individual time set aside for face to face meetings.

'Pupils feel safe socially, emotionally and physically at school. They told inspectors that bullying is rare and resolved well when it does occur. Pupils also said that they have several adults they trust at school if they become worried about the actions of others.'

Ofsted 2019



Uniform



It is our policy that all children wear school uniform whilst attending school and whilst representing the school outside or within normal school hours. On most trips school uniform will be worn unless specified.

All items of school uniform, bearing the school logo, are available from 'Personalise' which is a local company based at 24 Crittall Road, Witham, CM8 3DR (Tel No. 01376 521020, www.personalise-uk.co.uk). Some items without the printed logo can be obtained from large stores.

Please label all school uniform.



Uniform

- ✓ grey or black pinafore dress/skirt or trousers
- ✓ short grey or black trousers (summer only)
- ✓ dress in burgundy/maroon and white gingham or stripes (summer)
- ✓ white shirt / blouse (not a polo neck)
- ✓ **burgundy/maroon** sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan with or without school logo
- ✓ **burgundy/maroon** fleece with or without school logo (optional)
- ✓ school tie '**Maroon Double Stripe Tie**' (from Personalise)
- ✓ black, white or grey socks/ tights
- ✓ plain black shoes (no logos, bright colours or sparkly bits), no high heels, wedges or platform shoes
- ✓ warm coat (winter)
- ✓ scarf, hat, gloves (winter)
- ✓ hat or baseball cap (essential for sun protection)

P.E Uniform

- ✓ plain white t-shirt (no logos)
- ✓ plain black or navy shorts (no logos or markings)
- ✓ plain black plimsolls
- ✓ tracksuit in a dark colour with no logos for outdoor PE in winter (eg. black, navy or dark grey)
- ✓ plain black trainers for outdoor PE (no logos, markings)

(Please provide drawstring P.E bag clearly labelled with your child's name and class)

Uniform



No logos other than school logos are permitted on any item of uniform. This also applies to PE kit and to shoes/trainers. Please ensure PE kit is in school every day and is washed at the end of the week.

Children are expected to bring in their school water bottle every day and take home each day for washing and re-filling. Children new to Templars Academy are given a free water bottle. Replacement bottles can be purchased for £1.10 and replacement lids for 40p.

Hair Styles

Pupils should not wear extreme hair fashions. Excessive hair accessories should be avoided. Longer hair should be tied off the face for all lessons. It is not possible to detail every possible variation of dress and hairstyles. The Headteacher, supported by the Trustees, reserves the right to take exception to hair styles and dress which deliberately breach the general school dress code.



Jewellery

Only small stud/hoop earrings are permitted to be worn in school. In the interest of safety children are not allowed to wear jewellery or watches when taking part in physical education lessons, this is County Policy. Should any child have pierced ears they must be able to remove their earrings for all physical activities themselves. Children are no longer permitted to tape over piercings. Children with newly pierced ears must wait for six weeks before they join in physical education lessons after which time earrings are removed. No other form of body piercing is acceptable. If children want their ears pierced we recommend that this is done at the beginning of the Summer holidays so that they are able to remove them for PE when school starts back in September.



All uniform and personal items **must** be clearly named.

School Meals



At Templars Academy we have our own school kitchen which provides enjoyable, nutritious meals. Allergies are catered for.

All children in KS1 (Reception to Year 2) are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Children in our Nursery may order school dinners but these must be paid for at £2.30 per day. We have a set of 3 menus which are rotated weekly. Children in KS2 should pay for their dinners on-line through the ParentMail app. School dinners cost £2.30 per day which is excellent value for money. Your child can order a school dinner on the day, they will need to let their class teacher know when the register is taken.



If children do not want a hot school dinner they can bring in a healthy packed lunch. Please note that chocolate, sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted in lunch boxes. Please note, we are a **nut-free school**, please do not put any nut related items in your child's packed lunches please.

Menus are then rotated each week. To check your eligibility for free school meals please visit www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards.

Snacks

Children in KS1 receive a free healthy snack at break time which consists of a piece of fruit or vegetable e.g. carrot sticks.

Children in KS2 can bring in their own healthy snack for break time. This can only be a piece of fruit or vegetable, cheese and crackers or breadsticks. Cereal bars, crisps or cakes are not permitted.



Staff

CEO:

Mr C Jones

Headteacher:

Miss V Gooding

DSL/FLO/ Executive Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs F Welsher

Teaching Staff:

Mrs L Bearman
Mrs N Chambers
Mrs J Edmonds
Mrs Z Knott
Miss H Morgan
Miss M Lill
Mr T Mudhir

Miss C Burmby
Miss R Carragher
Mrs K Hounslow
Miss E Manzano
Miss H Pegram
Miss E Smith

Miss S King
Mrs F De Bruyn (Ast Head)
Mr M Cullum
Ms J Scawthorn
Miss K Pinder
Miss S Weston

SENCO:

Mrs S Reardon

Sports Coach:

Mr B Gribbon

Administrative Staff:

Mrs K Shambrook- Senior Admin Assistant
Mrs N Mann - Administrative Assistant

Higher Level Teaching Assistants:

Mrs E Waller

Site Staff:

Mr M Manning- Site Manager
Mr S Farrugia- Assistant Site Manager