

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 65% 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 24%.

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 computing teacher, 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, an Assistant Head, an Inclusion Manager and four Key Stage Managers. Each class has an assigned Teaching Assistant (Full time up to and including Year 1 and part time (0.75) for Year 2 upwards). In addition the school employs a number of additional Teaching Assistants to support children in early years or with particular learning needs.

Acacias has an active Governing Body. The governors support the school loyally and enthusiastically and have 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. Regular 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 parents and others assist in the classroom where the teachers value their expertise (we have been unable to have volunteers in school during the pandemic but hope to restart this in September). This help is particularly effective with pupils whose attainment is low.

The school actively supports national and local charities and has established useful links with other educational establishments. Beneficial links have also been established with one of the neighbouring churches.

OFSTED INSPECTION - March 2018

Acacias was judged to still be a good school. The report includes the following comments:-

- The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.
- You (the Headteacher) lead a calm and welcoming school which encourages pupils to thrive. Pupils across the school are polite and well behaved. In lessons, pupils show a determination to do their best.
- You (the Headteacher) and the senior leadership team lead the school with skill and determination. Through clear and effective communication, you share your high aspirations for pupils with staff, governors and parents and carers. The school has continued to improve.
- The training you provide for the enthusiastic staff consistently improves their practice. Teachers work closely together and share their ideas to help to improve teaching and learning. As a result, pupils receive skilled teaching that systematically develops their knowledge and skills across the curriculum.