



School Context

Ridgeway Infant School is a large three-form entry school with capacity for 270 children. The school is uniquely situated in extensive natural grounds with a well-established wildlife garden on site, in the suburbs of Derby City. The school opened in 1961.

There are seven classrooms in the main building along with a large hall, additional learning spaces and various offices. There are two terrapin classrooms located alongside the main playground. Despite the terrapin classrooms being located away from the main school building, the children in these classes are fully integrated into the life of the school. Our library is well resourced with a huge variety of books and has proven very popular with our families.

We utilise our locality to the full as part of our teaching and learning. Our curriculum is active and purposeful with many opportunities for learning outside the classroom, within our local community, Derby City and further afield.

The school stands in impressive open grounds which is maintained to a high standard. Our site includes a large, well-developed garden for Reception, Wildlife Garden, two sensory areas as part of the Rolls Royce Science Prize Project completed in 2015, Playtime Zones, Wild Flower Meadow and a Friendship Area along with an extensive school field.

Staffing and Organisation

The Senior Leadership Team comprises the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, School Business Manager and Early Years Foundation Stage Leader. The SLT focuses solely on strategic issues and is supported by three middle leaders - SENDCo, Literacy Leader and Site Manager.

At present, there are nine mixed ability classes with three classes per year group. This structure will remain until it becomes necessary to change. All Reception classes benefit from full-time teaching assistant support. Year 1 and 2 classes have part-time teaching assistant support each morning along with support for SEN children on an individual needs basis. Each year group is released together for PPA time, which is covered by an established team of experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistants.

The school also has a full time Learning Mentor that works closely with children and their families providing pastoral and wellbeing support. In addition, the school also benefits from employing Teaching Assistants with responsibility for intervention and SEND.

Children

Ridgeway Infant School has capacity for 270 children and takes a large proportion of children from outside its normal catchment area. A significant proportion of our children live within the 20% most deprived wards nationally. Currently 24% of children are entitled to Pupil Premium funding. Over half of our children come from Minority Ethnic backgrounds. The majority of these children speak English as an additional language (66%). 26% of our children have additional needs, some supported 1-1, and we are proud to be known locally as a very inclusive school.

Ridgeway is an OPAL school and we are currently working towards accreditation for excellent play provision! The school has an active Play Council which is involved in many aspects of decision making around OPAL. In addition, we have an enthusiastic Eco-Team who have achieved an Eco Gold Award.

Parents/Carers

The involvement of parents/carers in the life of the school is essential and important to us. We welcome volunteers in school who are parents/carers or other family members, many of whom support the delivery of our home reading scheme.

Ridgeway regularly organises open sessions for parents/carers to learn alongside their children and these are extremely popular and well received. Parents and carers are regularly invited into a year group event to showcase learning which again are very well attended. Classes also run 'Come and Join-in' sessions for parents/carers during curriculum time. On the last day of each half term the whole staff joins families before



the start of school day for free tea and toast. This is a fantastic opportunity to further develop relationships with our families. Other community events include whole school Stay and Read sessions on Friday mornings, information workshops and open lessons to help parents and carers understand how we teach and how to help at home.

Curriculum

Our dedicated and enthusiastic team provide an environment that nurtures independence, fun and a desire to learn. We aim to inspire high aspirations for our children's future and our curriculum prioritises enquiry and investigation. We talk to children about engaging fully in each learning journey, taking pride in working hard and celebrating when reaching our goals. Our whole school values focus on *teamwork, kindness, resilience, communication, independence and welcoming others*. Child-friendly animal characters help children to understand these.

We promote active healthy active lifestyles, British values and encourage children to make a positive contribution to their community. In the past, we are proud to have been selected as a Rolls Royce Science Prize finalist, accredited with a Ruth Miskin training badge, awarded Healthy Schools Mark, East Midlands in Bloom Gold Award, Eco Gold Award and identified as a 'What Works Well' flagship school for the Children's Food Trust.

The teaching of early reading remains a high priority for the school. All children are taught phonics using the 'Read, Write, Inc' program. All teachers and teaching assistants have received training and are responsible for the progress of a group of children.

We plan whole-school enrichment days to enhance the curriculum. In recent years, these have included cultural, MADD (Music, Art, Dance & Drama), RE, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) RE and orienteering.

Community Involvement

In July 2020, Ridgeway Infant School became part of the Blagreaves Federation alongside Gayton Junior School. The federation will allow both schools to work closely together by participating in joint staff training along with developing shared policies and subject leader links. We anticipate that it will also offer more opportunities for children and their families from both Gayton Juniors and Ridgeway Infants to join together such as clubs, workshops and wider school events.

Where possible, we take part in wider community events and work closely with other community organisations such as the Derby Picture Book Awards, Derby Book Festival, Derby Sign Fest, Workshops provided by Rolls Royce, Sinfoin Community Enterprise and Derby Open Centre.

OFSTED

On 24th and 25th April 2023 Ridgeway Infant School received an ungraded inspection and were were extremely proud to maintain our 'Good' status. Strengths included inclusion, curriculum, behaviour, leadership, staff morale and a genuine sense of community. The children are always at the centre of every decision made and we are delighted that this was recognised by Ofsted. This outcome is a true reflection of the commitment and time given by everyone connected with the school and those who have helped make Ridgeway such a wonderful place to learn.