



# Welcome to Pickhurst Academy

*Where every child counts*

We believe that choosing the right school for your child's primary education is one of the most important decisions that you will make. We are confident that, in choosing Pickhurst Academy, you will be making the right choice.

Pickhurst Academy has a long tradition of providing an excellent education for children aged 7-11 years. The children achieve high standards in English, Maths and Science and also excel in the arts, music and sports.

Through the inspiring curriculum our children learn how to problem-solve, think creatively, work collaboratively and communicate effectively so that, at the age of 11, they are ready to move with confidence to the next phase in their education.

Pickhurst Academy has been designated a National Lead Support School and has been independently reviewed by an Ofsted inspector and accredited outstanding status under the new Ofsted framework. In addition, we have nationally recognised facilitation status for closing the attainment gap between children on the Free School Meals register and their peers.

Pickhurst Academy is a showcase Academy for developing creativity within the curriculum and renowned for our many sporting triumphs. We have a relentless drive to improve the life chances of all of our learners and our in-school motto is "Challenge Everything." We aim to develop creative, free thinking and confident young people, adept at communicating.

**"Pickhurst Academy deserves its  
'Outstanding' status. My child has  
flourished in this school."**

“A great school in beautiful surroundings.”



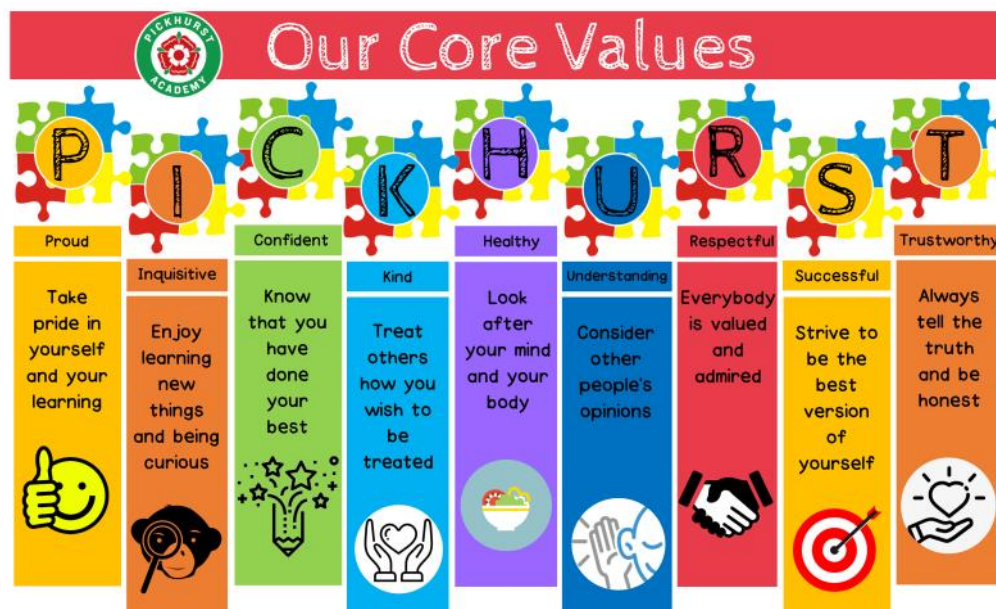


# Our Vision and Values

Through our strong family ethos, the Trust, staff, parents, governors and friends of Pickhurst Academy are committed to working together to provide the highest quality of education that will meet the needs of every child and enable them to achieve their personal best.

At Pickhurst Academy we are committed to:

- Empowering and challenging all children to have high expectations of themselves and achieve their personal best.
- Nurturing children's emotional and physical well-being and keeping them safe and secure.
- Celebrating the uniqueness of every child and valuing the contribution they make to the lives and learning of others.
- Inspiring children to think creatively, to question, to solve problems and to discover for themselves.
- Engendering in every child respect and responsibility for others and the world in which they live.
- Working in partnership with parents to enable every child to succeed and develop a life-long love of learning.
- Promoting healthy minds and bodies and a strong team spirit.

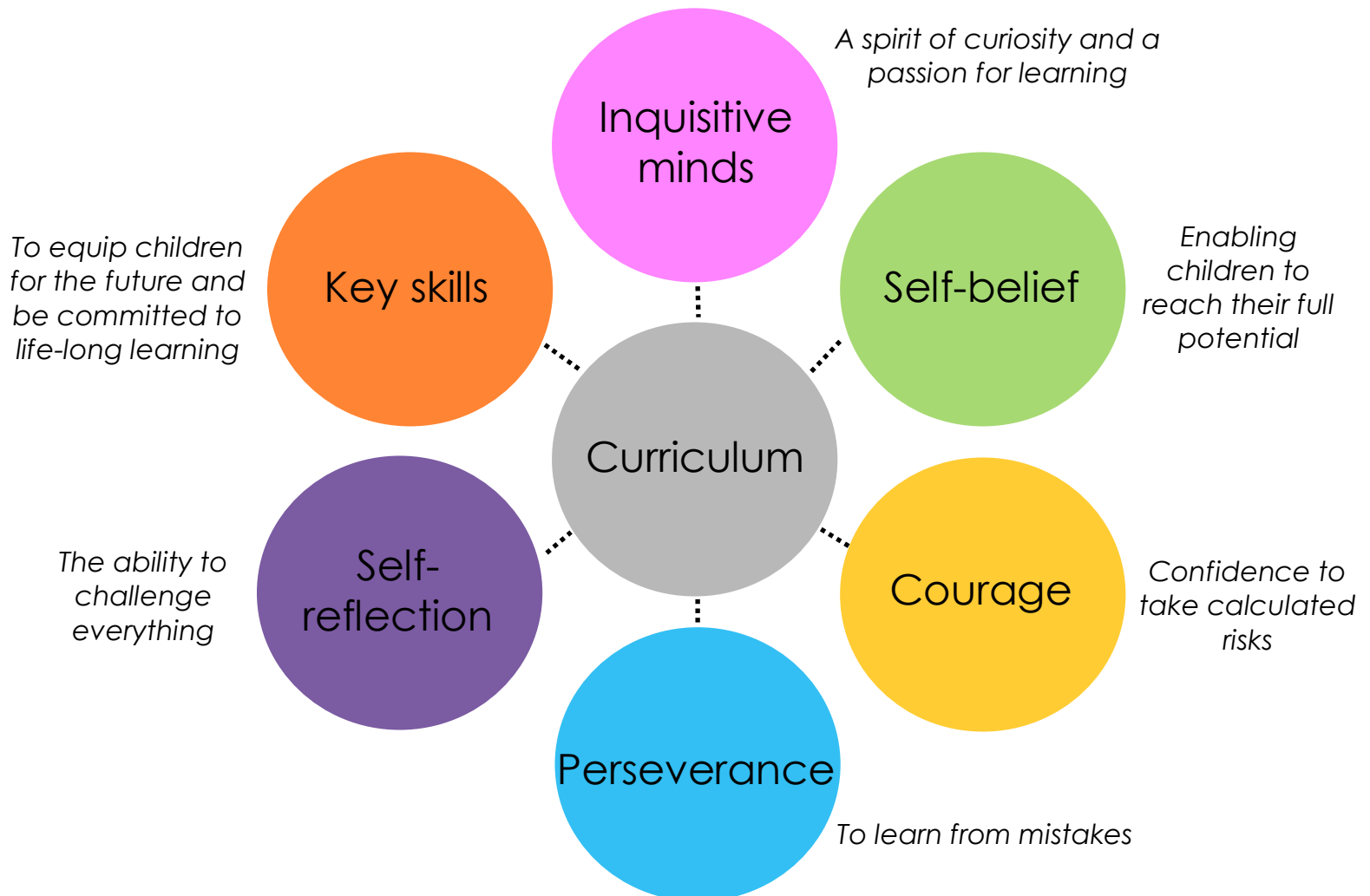


# Teaching and Learning

At Pickhurst Academy we provide an engaging and creative curriculum which provides first hand experiences and builds on children's prior knowledge.

We use a broad range of teaching strategies that take into account the ways in which children learn in order to foster engagement, motivation and creativity.

The curriculum at Pickhurst Academy is designed to develop:



# Creative Curriculum

We aim to develop adaptable, flexible and free thinking individuals with enquiring minds and a thirst for knowledge. We also aim to extend learning beyond the classroom to stimulate and inspire thinking and learning.

Our approach to learning is broad and varied and we plan to develop multi-learning styles.

The curriculum is designed to allow children to link their learning locally, nationally and internationally. This makes learning relevant and meaningful.

As a platform readily understood by today's children, computing is used creatively across the curriculum to enhance children's learning. We feel it is important that our learners are encouraged to develop their own learning.

There is significant focus on engaging children to focus on their writing skills. Extended Writing develops imagination, celebrates creativity and encourages writing for a sustained period of time.

In addition, there is great emphasis on enrichment days, focus weeks and workshops to develop independence and risk taking in a secure environment.

“The quality of teaching is marvellous.  
My son has been encouraged and  
supported right the way through school!”



“My daughter left Year 6 with a love of learning and a great base of knowledge.”



“Learning in a safe, creative environment -  
I could not want more for my child.”





# P4C (Philosophy for Children)

In P4C children respond readily with comments and probing questions. An emphasis is placed on pupils thinking and speaking for themselves at all times. As a result children are confident and make good progress in speaking and listening skills.

P4C develops thinking skills to encourage children to work collaboratively, be critical, apply creativity, and care for each other. Children create their own questions and select from them democratically. The questions raised come from a stimulus that is shared with the children and can take the form of objects, artefacts, pictures, photographs and videos. The children can even bring in their own stimulus to share with the class.

Some important features are:

- Children work as a team
- They can express their own opinions
- Children value and respect each other and their opinions
- Different viewpoints are embraced
- They have the opportunity to question each other and the world around them

P4C deepens children's understanding of other subject areas and the wider world which helps to develop a sense of community.

“Throughout the years of being at Pickhurst Academy I have enjoyed every moment. The staff are helpful and the pupils are great. It has been a great pleasure being at this school.”



# Forest School

Forest School takes place in an area of the school grounds designated as our Forest School site i.e. a safe outdoor environment. Children build self esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world.

The child led focus of Forest School means the children can choose what to participate in, carefully supported and encouraged by trained adults. The role of the adults at Forest School is to facilitate and observe.

Children are encouraged and supported in recognising and managing risks for themselves. Children learn at their own pace by working on small achievable tasks, uninterrupted and choosing to move on when they are ready. They can move freely within the boundaries of the site.

Groups of children will have a series of regular Forest School sessions so that they can build on previous experience and develop an understanding of the outdoor environment.

Forest School promotes holistic development through experiences that use every area of development - use of the senses, emotional well being, social development, health and fitness, fine and gross motor skills, i.e. multi sensory, real life learning.

Activities include:

- Hunting for mini beasts
- Identification of animals and plants
- Art and crafts using natural materials
- Using knots and lashing to create structures
- Building shelters
- Whittling
- Fire building and toasting food on a campfire



“The staff are incredibly understanding and supportive and my peers are friendly and good fun.”



# Sports, Clubs and Activities

Sport plays a large part in daily life at Pickhurst Academy. We are able to offer a wide range of sports, both as part of the curriculum and in the afternoon and early morning clubs.

Our sporting achievements are a testament to our commitment to sport including the attainment of Borough Championship Trophies in cricket, football, cross country, tag-rugby and tennis. Additionally, Pickhurst Academy is proud to have been County and South of England finalists in cricket, football and tag-rugby.

On site, we offer a fantastic breakfast club and after-school club. These clubs are run by Pickhurst Academy staff and can be contacted by [pals@pickhurst.com](mailto:pals@pickhurst.com) to book a one-off place or a regular place for your child.

There is also a large range of clubs available for the children to enjoy via [pals@pickhurst.com](mailto:pals@pickhurst.com). These include: cooking, art & craft, chess, languages, computing, choir, creative writing, philosophy, football, basketball, tag rugby, netball, cricket, athletics, cross country, hockey, drama, music, pottery, sewing and many more.







“So many clubs and groups to support and encourage learning”



# Equality Matters

At Pickhurst Academy we believe that every child matters. We celebrate all children regardless of gender, disabilities, race, ability and backgrounds. We create a positive atmosphere based on a sense of community and shared values, where pupils are enabled to achieve academically and socially.

Equal opportunities are at the heart of our ethos, recognising the importance of the diverse needs of our learners. There is a zero tolerance for bullying and racism.

Achievements both academic and creative are recognised and celebrated throughout school life. This includes children who are recognised as gifted and talented in any area.

We help to develop the children's understanding of the social and emotional needs of themselves and others through a creative programme of Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SCARF) work. Through our Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) curriculum, we aim to make our children responsible citizens, preparing them for the decisions they may need to make both now and in the future.

We adopt a positive approach to behaviour with good behaviour celebrated and rewarded. A clear structure has been created to manage any negative behaviour issues that may arise. We strive for all children to achieve their full potential and become independent, confident learners.





# Parent Partnership

Home school links are a fundamental part of the work at Pickhurst Academy with parents kept fully informed of aspects of their children's time at the School including work attainment and behaviour.

There are strong transition links between Pickhurst Academy and Pickhurst Infant Academy and highly effective programmes have been put in place to ensure that children have the best start possible at the beginning of each year.

Parents are strongly invited to attend parent teacher evenings every term with an open afternoon at the end of the year. These opportunities are invaluable in understanding children's progress and next steps for learning.

We actively encourage parental engagements and welcome volunteers who can donate their time to assist with a whole range of different activities from hearing readers to helping out with art projects or cooking and tending the Academy grounds. At various points in the year the school holds curriculum workshops for parents which always prove popular and informative and receive very positive feedback.

There is an active and dedicated PTA who work tirelessly to organise fantastic fundraising activities to further enhance and enrich the opportunities for all learners.

Good communication is seen as a key to effective engagement with our parents and we regularly update events and diary dates via the Academy website and email these to parents. There are also year group curriculum newsletters which are produced weekly as well as the Principal's newsletter. These are published on the Academy website.


Home learning is encouraged and we feel it is important that children engage with their school work at home to further enhance their learning. As well as the usual expectation of reading, spelling and maths, children are also given projects to complete, e.g. making a musical instrument.





### We would love to hear from you

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 Pickhurst Academy

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Pickhurst Academy is part of the Chancery Education Trust

*The Chancery Education Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*