



Brookside Primary School

Championing Children's Potential



Welcome to Brookside

We are a forward thinking school who believe strongly in the delivery of a broad and enriching curriculum. Children's well-being is at the heart of everything we do. Academic excellence is mixed with a vibrant and creative curriculum to enhance every child's chances.

Brookside School is set in pleasant, leafy grounds adjoining the countryside. As well as three playgrounds, there is a large playing field and an indoor heated swimming pool. There is also an adventure playground, a large soft-surface area and an extensive wild area which is used for environmental work.



At Brookside, we are proud of the cultural diversity that exists within the school and of the understanding and respect that each culture brings to our community. We celebrate this richness in many ways during the year, from curriculum work through art projects to celebration days and performances. Visitors from other faiths are regular visitors to our school and the tolerant, welcoming nature of our children is a strength of the school.

The children at Brookside are encouraged to behave well and respect each other through a range of positive strategies. Their politeness and good manners are often commented upon by visitors to our school.

We welcome parents and their children to visit our school on a normal day. If you would like to come and look round, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to meeting you very soon.

Miss Grace Brown
Headteacher

*“The school is a calm
and purposeful place in
which to learn.”*

Ofsted 2016

Our ethos and vision

Respectful

Our children are respectful of other cultures and beliefs, enabling them to participate as valued members of the community.

Empowered

Pupils develop the empowerment to set their own goals and challenges.

Motivated

Our staff ensure that all children enjoy learning and show motivation, independence and enthusiasm.

Responsible

Our pupils understand our expectations of them and are able to take responsibility for their own actions.

Prepared

We support our pupils to be active learners who are able to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Thankful

We guide our pupils so they can learn to see, appreciate and protect the beauty of our world.

Resilient

In an ever-changing world we help our children adapt and thrive when faced with any challenges life may present.



Brookside is a school where:

- we celebrate diversity
- our open and welcoming atmosphere enables everyone to feel safe, happy and confident
- inspiring adults embrace change
- we create enthusiastic and independent learners in a colourful, fresh and stimulating environment
- we take pride in our working environment and contributing to our community
- we are proud of, and celebrate, the achievements of everyone
- we provide opportunities for everyone to reach their full potential
- we strive for excellence and recognise individual contributions and achievements

“Brookside is a highly inclusive school. A wide range of faiths and cultures are represented in the school.”

Ofsted 2016



Learning with us

Our school

Brookside Primary School opened in January 1973 and has continued to evolve since then.

The teaching area is made up of the main building and two double classroom bases. Reception classes are situated in the base adjacent to the main playgrounds with their own discrete play area.



In addition to the main working areas, there are tiled practical areas, a library, computer suite, hall, a tiered studio, quiet rooms, a kiln and a heated indoor swimming pool. We also have a superb outdoor space which backs onto the beautiful Leicestershire countryside.

Our curriculum

Children in Reception follow Early Years Foundation Stage guidance. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 is based on the 10 subject areas of the National Curriculum. Work is organised using the natural links between subjects, rather than teaching them in discrete subject blocks. It helps to make the learning more interesting and relevant to the children.

Throughout the three Key Stages the teachers in each year group plan closely together to ensure continuity and progression.

National Curriculum subject areas are linked wherever possible, allowing teachers more flexibility when timetabling their week and giving the children time to carry out more in-depth research into the areas they are studying.

Our classes

Teaching throughout the school is in mixed ability classes. Classroom organisation is flexible consisting of whole class lessons and discussions, using a combination of ability and mixed ability groups and individual programmes of work, according to both the needs of the children and the curriculum.

Sometimes, the children enjoy teaching from other staff using their specialist knowledge and skills, for example, PE and languages. This gives teachers the opportunity to cover some areas of the curriculum in more depth and address the more creative aspects of the curriculum. It also gives the teachers the opportunity to use their specialist skills and expertise more widely within the school.

We also access learning opportunities through our close links with Manor High School. Our children have opportunities to use the specialist learning areas, such as science labs and design areas, plus enjoy learning support from their staff and students.



“Around the school, pupils’ work is celebrated at every turn, with attractive displays of artwork, mathematical and scientific investigations.”

Ofsted 2016



Life beyond the classroom

Clubs and activities

There is a varied programme of extra-curricular activities which provide opportunities for children to have fun and develop a range of skills. Clubs have included sports, creative activities and areas covering additional curriculum development.

The emphasis throughout is on involvement and co-operation, as well as, where appropriate, encouraging a controlled competitive element. Teachers inform both children and parents about clubs by letter.

School trips

Young children learn best from real experiences and as part of their studies we regularly take all our children on educational visits both around Leicestershire and further afield. These can include trips to Cadbury World, Think Tank in Birmingham, the SeaLife Centre, Space Centre, Creswell Crags and many more.

Residential

As well as these day visits, children are able to make residential trips to give them the experience of being away from home. Residential visits are a vital part of children's social and emotional development, as well as their academic growth, and we encourage all our children to take part.

Peripatetic music lessons

The peripatetic teachers offer tuition in a range of musical instruments. Children have the opportunity to commence these lessons at the start of each academic year (usually from KS2) and in some cases may join classes during the year.



“The school’s curriculum is enhanced by trips, including residential visits, designed to broaden pupils’ experiences and to bring learning to life.”

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Areas of expertise

Personal learning base

Brookside is a highly inclusive school. We boast a specialist purpose-built unit which is an integral part of the school. Riverbank, as it is known, is a 20-place class for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Pupils who attend Riverbank are integrated successfully into the life of the school. Many pupils join with mainstream classes when it is appropriate for their learning, ably supported by staff they are familiar with.

The unit staff play an active role within school and may work at times with mainstream children who need specialist support and are available to offer advice to mainstream teachers about particular special needs issues.

Family learning

The school offers Family Learning sessions each year for parents of all year groups. They are well-attended and parents speak very highly of the family learning that leaders have organised. Parents are given advice on how to support their children with their learning in areas such as maths and reading. We have found that parents appreciate that the family learning sessions have other benefits, such as bringing the community together and enabling parents to get to know each other.

Wrap around care

The Swan's Nest is Brookside Primary School's pre- and after-care club that is situated in the Hall and Swan's Nest room. The service is provided daily for Brookside children from 7.45am and until 6.00pm. Children are cared for by experienced staff who provide interesting activities, in a safe and happy environment.

“Relationships between staff and pupils were strong as they laughed together, making learning fun.”

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Transition and application

Visit our school

We have two Open Afternoons during the autumn term where we invite children and their parents to visit the school and spend time in our Reception base.

We love to show off our school, so we also welcome parents to visit us during a normal school day. Just call to make an appointment with our Family Liaison Officer.

How to apply

All admissions to Brookside are managed through an application to Leicestershire County Council. This can be completed online by visiting the Leicestershire County Council website: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions.

Starting with us

Children may begin school on a voluntary basis in the autumn term after their fourth birthday. During their first months, children settle down with new friends and new routines. The adults who work in Reception, make sure that each child is happy and pursuing relevant and interesting activities.

Learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom every day, whatever the weather.

Starting school is a big step and it is our intention to make each child feel able to cope with the new situation when separated from parents and familiar surroundings. Good manners and habits are strengthened and foundations laid for the intellectual and physical pursuits, which will be further developed in ensuing classes.

Meetings for parents and transition visits for children help make the transition as smooth and successful as possible.

Next steps

At the age of 11+ (Year 6), children from this school normally transfer to Manor High School (which is on the same campus).





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“Leaders, including governors, are highly ambitious for everyone associated with the school to do well.”

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