



OUR PROSPECTUS



www.thereachfreeschool.co.uk





WELCOME

I am thrilled that you are considering choosing The Reach Free School as the secondary school for your child. I hope that you are excited by what you see inside the pages of this prospectus and welcome you to explore the enriching learning environment of our school.



Welcoming pupils of all faiths, abilities and backgrounds, The Reach Free School is dedicated to ensuring all of its pupils strive for and achieve their very best in all that they do, both in the classroom and beyond. Excellent teaching is at the heart of a successful school and I am committed to ensuring that our members of staff give your child high quality, enjoyable and enriching learning experiences. In turn, we expect all of our pupils to work hard and commit to challenging themselves to exceed their potential. Regardless of starting points, we expect all of our pupils to REACH for the best and not settle for less.

Personalised learning is at the core of our ethos and our small year groups ensure that my team and I will know your child well and cater for their individual needs, providing them with the education which will both support and stretch them.

To that end, The Reach Free School has a simple ethos which we refer to as ACE; Achievement, Community and Enjoyment. In addition to academic rigour, we have a strong community spirit with bespoke sessions in our timetable dedicated to community projects and initiatives, teaching our pupils about life beyond school and home and preparing them for a confident and successful working and family life.

Finally, The Reach Free School is an enjoyable school where pupils love their learning and want to do more. Our 'Electives' programme affords pupils the opportunities to explore their talents and potential, whether they be in the classroom, on the sports field or on the stage.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you and your child and in the meantime invite you to contact me directly with any questions you may have via email at: head@reachfree.co.uk

Richard Booth
Headteacher

“The headteacher leads with calm authority and is ably supported by his senior team. Together they have ensured that the collective vision of ‘achievement, community and enjoyment’ is central to the work of the school.” Ofsted 2015



OPPORTUNITY THROUGH COMMUNITY

The Reach Free School is a non-selective community school committed to securing excellent outcomes for all of our pupils. We have high aspirations for our pupils and high expectations of them. All pupils are expected to:

- Commit their best efforts to all that they do
- Support each other to achieve their potential
- Work with their teachers to exceed their goals
- Demonstrate exemplary behaviour in all that they do
- Take pride in their school and its community within its walls and beyond
- Enjoy learning

The Reach Free School has an active role in the community, working with local businesses and supporting local events. Pupils are very much involved in the school's wider responsibilities, developing skills in leadership and decision making, communication and collaboration and independent, self-led learning. A sense of fun and purpose and responsibility pervades lessons and activities at The Reach Free School and it is important that our pupils recognise their own responsibilities as members of the community.

It is this that underpins The Reach Free School's ethos:

ACHIEVEMENT, COMMUNITY, ENJOYMENT

ETHOS

Achievement

Recognising that each child is an individual with unique strengths and talents, we will ensure that every pupil succeeds both academically and socially. Because we keep year groups small, you can be assured that we will know your children well and provide them with opportunities to stretch and challenge themselves and ultimately enable them to compete for higher education places and coveted careers.

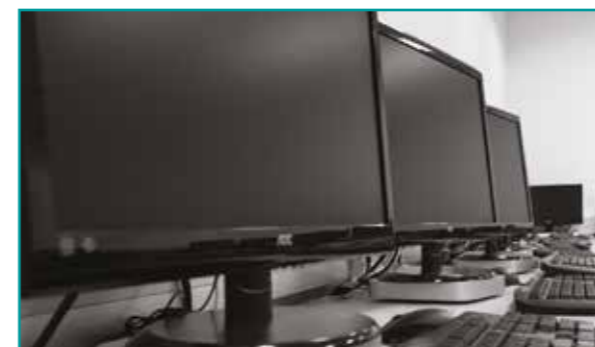
To that end, The Reach Free School specialises in English and Mathematics to ensure that every pupil has the competencies needed in literacy and numeracy to ensure they are a desirable candidate for any job. English and Mathematics are the bedrock of our curriculum. They are embedded into the teaching and learning of all other subjects providing pupils with a solid foundation on which to build their knowledge and understanding in other disciplines.

Community

Through our unique 'Community Common Room' sessions, we will provide pupils with opportunities to contribute in a positive way to the local, national and global community.

We also believe that a strong pupil voice instils a sense of pride and community involvement, and ensures that pupils are highly involved in decision making at the school. The Reach Council elects new pupils every year to represent the interests and ambitions of their class and to collectively volunteer ideas and initiatives for making the school even better.

Likewise, we want you to be involved in the life of the school and look forward to working with you to determine the very best education for your child.



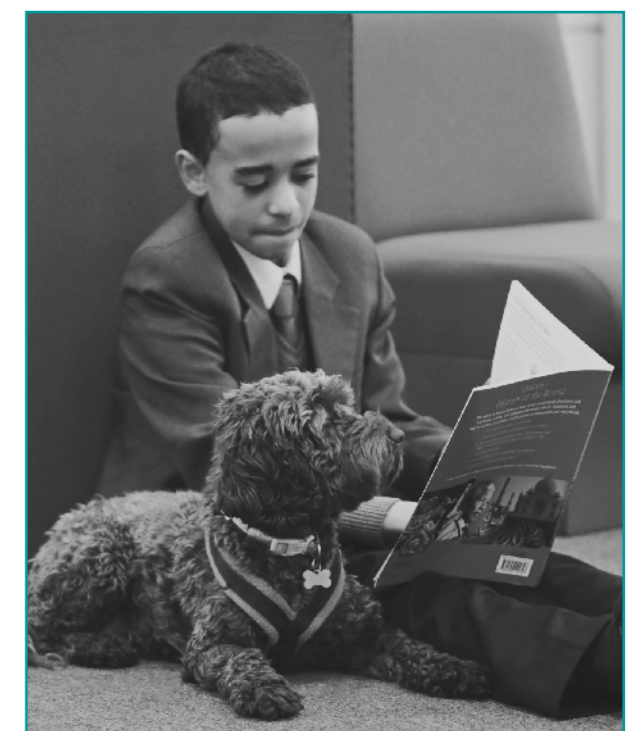
Enjoyment

Our pupils' wellbeing is at the forefront of all that we aim to achieve. Happy pupils who feel safe and confident in their school will go on to be the most successful.

Each year 7 class has its own Assistant Teacher who stays with the class for all of the lessons supporting subject teachers across the curriculum, ensuring every child has what they need, both academically and emotionally, to succeed in every subject.

The Reach Free School, has one member of staff who never fails to bring a smile to all our pupils' faces – Scout, our school dog. Scout comes to school every day and visits lessons. She also works with small groups and individuals on their reading and rewards them by performing some of her tricks or learning new ones in pupil led training sessions.

Outside of the classroom, The Reach Free School offers a range of practical, physical and exciting activities. From sports matches to theatre visits, from trips abroad to inter-school competitions, The Reach Free School facilitates a whole host of new and fulfilling opportunities for your child to enjoy.



CURRICULUM

Key Stage Three

A daily diet of English and Mathematics as the first two lessons of the day begin the timetable for pupils in year 7. This enables us to establish a learning culture which emphasises the need for sound literacy and numeracy as the foundation for success in other subjects and for life beyond school.

Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 study those subjects outlined below:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Humanities (Geography, History, Citizenship and Religious Education)
- Spanish
- Technology
- Creative Arts
- Physical Education, Sport and Games

In addition, a unique aspect of The Reach Free School's timetable is 'Community Common Room'. This session is set aside each week for pupils to take part in activities which will benefit the local community. Pupils work together to reach out to the community by designing campaigns or planning and delivering fundraising events to give back to the local area.

This underpins The Reach Free School's ethos of teaching children to respect, welcome and contribute to the success of their local community and indeed national and international society.

From Monday to Thursday, pupils choose their preferences from our enriching 'Electives' programme. This compulsory extra-curricular slot in the day allows pupils to experience and contribute to the school in various contexts such as playing for a sports team, attending Reach Council meetings or by enjoying the various activities on offer such as 'Glee Club' or '24 Game'.

"The most-able students make strong progress in English and mathematics, often working successfully on tasks that are above the level expected for their age. This is due to the high level of challenge presented to them." Ofsted 2015

Key Stage Four

The Reach Free School will offer pupils a range of pathways tailored to suit their needs and ambitions. All pupils will follow the English Baccalaureate route obtaining GCSEs in English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and a Modern Foreign Language. This can then be furnished with further GCSEs or vocational qualifications ensuring every pupil has a broad range of skills across a number of subjects in which they wish to excel further.

All pupils will have the opportunity to study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- A Modern Foreign Language

Based on pupils' interests and ambitions we provide a wide range of option subjects which may include Art and Design, Business and Economics, Computing, Performing Arts, Media, Music, Design and Technology, Travel and Tourism and Physical Education.





CURRICULUM

House Time

Each week a period is set aside for 'House Time'. This enables Heads of Houses to hold their weekly assemblies and for pupils to gain points towards the 'House Cup'. This closely links with our community ethos and over the coming years will link different year groups together and therefore foster a real sense of belonging to The Reach Free School community for all pupils.

Post 16

By the time pupils reach years 12 and 13, teaching will mirror that of universities. Post 16 students will be expected to drive their own learning and ultimately consult with the teacher on how best to lead their own study towards their qualifications.

In addition to their timetabled lessons, the Sixth Form of The Reach Free School, will be expected to give at least two of their periods to support other pupils in their house in lower years of the school. This support may take the form of peer mentoring, specific subject support in class or support with community projects. We anticipate offering a combination of A levels and vocational courses in the Sixth Form which suit the interests, ambitions and abilities of our learners.

Electives

We offer a wide range of activities to reflect pupils' interests and to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle.

Sport features significantly in our curriculum and in extra curricular time. We aim to encourage all pupils to try a number of different and exhilarating sports at various venues.

Similarly, music galas and performances of drama and dance are staged throughout the academic year, enabling pupils to celebrate each others' talents.

The Reach Free School welcomes visiting speakers and distinguished guests throughout the year. Equally, we arrange for our pupils to be visiting speakers and distinguished guests themselves when we go out into the community for various trips and events.

"Teachers have high expectations of what students can achieve, setting aspirational targets for them." Ofsted 2015



A DAY AT SCHOOL

8.00am – 8.30am

'TEA AND TOAST' – An optional slot in the day for pupils to meet their friends for a healthy breakfast at The Reach Café to set themselves up for the busy day ahead.

8.30am – 8.40am

REGISTRATION – Pupils arrive at their Home Rooms, sign in and find out about any upcoming events or notices which may be of interest to them or their friends or families.

8.40am – 9.30am

ENGLISH – Novels, poems and plays start the formal lessons of the day.

9.30am – 10.20am

MATHEMATICS – Following on from vocabulary and punctuation, numbers and formulae round up the morning's hard work.

10.20am – 10.35am

BREAK – Time to get some fresh air, pick up a snack and catch up with friends.

10.35am – 11.05am

REACH FOR A BOOK – Time to grab a beanbag and settle down with a good book.

11.05am – 11.55pm

SCIENCE – Pupils study chemistry, biology and physics throughout year 7 and enjoy lots of practical experiments.

11.55am – 12.45pm

SPANISH – Hola! Pupils learn a new language and explore the cultures of Spanish speaking countries.

12.45pm – 1.25pm

LUNCH AT THE REACH CAFÉ – Hot and cold meals and beverages to restore pupils' energy for the practical demands of the afternoon.

1.25pm – 2.15pm

CREATIVE ARTS – Painting, sculpting, acting, directing, singing, dancing, playing instruments – a tiring session but pupils will need to save some energy for their PE lessons tomorrow!

2.15pm – 3.05pm

TECHNOLOGY – Pupils can design their own apps on their iPad Minis, learn how to create computer programs or edit their movies in the Mac suite.

3.05pm – 4.05pm

ELECTIVES – Jazz hands at Glee Club, strategy in the Chess Team, penalty practice at Reach FC, there's a lot to get stuck into before pupils head home, even some support with homework at 'Me Time'.

4.05pm – 4.15pm

REGISTRATION – All pupils must report to afternoon registration before heading off home for the night, looking forward to returning the following day.



HOW TO APPLY

The Reach Free School is open to all.

There are no selection criteria for admissions to The Reach Free School. After pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans and Looked After Children, places are allocated to siblings of our

existing pupils

and then solely on distance. This is currently the distance from the main entrance of the child's home to

the Mill End Sports and Social Club. Penn Road,

Mill End, Rickmansworth, WD3 8QN.

Year 7 applications to The Reach Free School should be made through your local authority's admissions process.

In Year admissions should be made directly to the school.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us on

01923 224764

We look forward to seeing you soon!

