



# Ramsgate

Arts Primary School

[www.ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk)



**'One Childhood: One Chance'**



We welcome you and your child to Ramsgate Arts Primary School, a new two form entry primary school that is part of the Viking Academy Trust with our highly successful partners, Chilton Primary School and Upton Junior School. We are passionate about our children's success and provide a high quality, rounded education, through which every child can enjoy learning and be supported to reach their potential.

We are located in a purpose-built, bright, modern, spacious building which encompasses state of the art technology and designated spaces, such as our dance studio, music room and art studio. We nurture, encourage and build on creativity - through our Arts Curriculum, our children will develop skills to explore a range of creative subjects. Our specialist teaching team guides children in learning the value of discipline, commitment and work ethic as well as creative thinking skills. This enables our pupils to have a secure educational foundation, as well as the ability to think outside the box and channel their creativity enabling them to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

**'Creativity is just connecting things. When you ask creative people how they did something...they were able to connect experiences they've had and synthesize new things. And the reason they were able to do that was that they've had more experiences or that they have thought more about their experiences than other people. Unfortunately, that's too rare a commodity.'** Steve Jobs - Co-founder Apple Inc.

We hope that this is the beginning of a long and happy association with our school and we look forward to getting to know you and your child during the exciting and inspirational time we will share together at Ramsgate Arts Primary School.

Together, we make a difference.

**Nicholas Budge** - Head of School    **Michaela Lewis** - Executive Headteacher



**'High academic standards and innovative teaching deliver outstanding results'**



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# Our Vision

Our vision is to provide a high-quality, rounded and creative education, through which every child can experience the joy of learning and also be supported to reach his or her potential. This is made possible through a relentless focus on high quality teaching and learning, ensuring all children make good or better progress in reading, writing and maths. This academic rigor goes hand in hand with our belief that developing a love of the arts - music, art dance and drama, will enrich our children and offer them an all encompassing school experience.

We endeavour to nurture and build on creativity. Through our Arts Curriculum, our children will be taught the skills of creative subjects. Our specialist teaching team will guide children in learning the value of discipline, commitment and work ethic as well as creative thinking skills.

The result will be children who not only have a secure educational foundation, but also have the ability to think outside the box and channel their creativity enabling them to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

We aim to create a calm yet highly stimulating environment, within which every child can feel secure and grow in self-confidence, gaining the necessary personal, social and academic life-skills to succeed in society today as well as preparing them for a largely unknown tomorrow. Classrooms are full of children motivated by positive, well-paced and purposeful lessons which encourage them to develop autonomy and become independent learners. Our staff are passionate about the children's success and ensure that Ramsgate Arts Primary School provides a first class education for every child. One Childhood: One Chance!



**One Childhood: One Chance**

# Guiding Principles and Responsibilities

We want our children to become confident and self-motivated; to know right from wrong and to understand their rights and responsibilities and to see the need for rules within our society.

Within a school 'family' some guidelines will be essential; these are mostly matters of common sense to ensure the safety of our children. The emphasis in the school is to praise positive behaviour, attitude and effort and to increase children's awareness of the need to make a positive contribution to their community.

We have a Behaviour Policy which is consistently applied by all adults who work in the school. The aims of this policy are briefly outlined opposite:



‘We want our pupils to be self-motivated and to know right from wrong’

## Our Aims:

- We will strive to create a positive climate in which pupils' self esteem is nurtured and misbehaviour becomes a less attractive way to gain attention.
- All people in the school will be valued, respected and safe.
- School will be an orderly environment in which effective teaching and learning can take place.
- Everyone will work together to encourage good behaviour.
- A high level of parental involvement is encouraged and expected.
- We will work closely with other agencies to ensure that children with complex needs and difficulties and their families are given appropriate support.

## Dealing with inappropriate behaviour:

Our school will have five simple rules displayed in classes along with class rules negotiated by pupils with the class teacher.

Minor rule breaking will be addressed as appropriate. Members of staff will provide attention to those who are behaving correctly. When pupils have to be reminded of the rules, this will be done quietly and calmly with the aim of getting the pupil back on task as soon as possible. The inappropriate behaviour will be criticised, not the child.

All adults in school will keep in mind that **EACH DAY IS A FRESH START.**

We will always try to work with parents. Good behaviour is the result of a partnership between home and school and standards set at home and school should complement each other.

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‘Without values we have nothing on which to base our decisions and priorities’

# Our Values

The Ramsgate Arts Primary School is a ‘values based learning community’, committed to the education of the whole child. The values which have been adopted are based around developing the children to become successful learners.

## Our Values Are:

- **Aspiration**
- **Challenge**
- **Collaboration**
- **Diversity**
- **Engagement**
- **Enquiry**
- **Autonomy (Independence)**

We believe everyone needs values to guide them through life. Without values we have no anchor, nothing on which to base our decisions and priorities and we recognise the huge role parents have to play in helping us embed our values.

We will teach our values through everything we do and through our daily assemblies and PSHE curriculum. Values displays will be prominent throughout the school environment in the belief that a good education gives us the chance to live longer, enjoy success, create life chances, provide for a family and much more. We are confident every parent and carer wants these for their children.

We are also certain that these values build on this idea and uphold our mission statement, ‘Together, we make a difference.’ These values will not be just for show, they will be at the very heart of everyone and everything at Ramsgate Arts Primary School.

‘Together we make a difference’



‘Pupils will develop the personal qualities they need to be good citizens’

## English

While there will be discrete English lessons each day, literacy skills, in particular speaking, listening and writing, will be used and developed in every curriculum area through the International Primary Curriculum. Taught English sessions will ensure that children are engaged in a variety of activities matched to their specific needs. Play, storytelling, talking about their own experiences and ideas, drama and improvisation provide a sound base at Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 places an emphasis on pupils exploring and expressing their own world. Teaching and learning styles will mix instruction, group collaboration, paired work, practical activity, performance, individual research and investigation with appropriate strategies to encourage effective learning through language, such as sharing learning objective and success criteria and opportunities to review and evaluate. Varied and regular writing tasks will also be a feature across the whole of our curriculum in every year group.

## Phonics

Phonics teaching will follow the ‘Read Write Inc publication’ (RWI). It is a consistent, rigorous and dynamic literacy programme to teach EVERY child to read by the age of six. Using synthetic phonics, children quickly learn to blend letter sounds together following a fun and effective programme.

The RWI programme has been proven to be a very successful method of teaching every child to read and write using phonics. Evidence of this can be found in the Ofsted Report: ‘Reading by six: how the best schools do it.’

All children in KS1 will be following the programme. They will have already been assessed, so will be put into groups and given the appropriate RWI reading and workbooks to follow. The programme can also be followed by older children to catch up. KS1 will be using RWI as their reading scheme.

## Reading

In reading we will use a variety of approaches including:

- Shared reading
- Reciprocal reading
- Independent reading
- Guided reading

These are strategies that enable children to construct meaning from a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts; a strong decoding and spelling foundation using a blend of phonics and visual techniques to suit the learning needs of the individual child. However it will be whole texts that will be used as the basis for learning in all areas of literacy. Teaching and learning approaches and styles are adopted using the practices associated with the ‘Power of Reading’ project developed by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE).

In Key Stage 1, reading will be taught to groups appropriate to their stage of learning and understanding. High quality texts will be used throughout to enable children to become skilled and fluent readers.



In Key Stage 2, reading will be taught to the whole class from a whole text. Learning will be scaffolded and differentiated according to need and a range of different learning styles and approaches put in place to enable effective learning to take place for all. This learning will then be transferred to the literacy lesson and other areas of the curriculum as appropriate.

From Year 2 to 6, additional reading and literacy learning groups will ensure that children are able to catch up and keep up with their literacy skills in order to access the whole curriculum. These groups will be taught through Read, Write Inc. and Fresh Start approaches.

## Writing

Writing will play an essential role in the curriculum as a whole. Writing opportunities will interest and engage children so that they will learn to become thoughtful, reflective and evaluative writers. They will write for a range of audiences and purposes and throughout the teaching and learning of writing, they will develop an understanding of how to write a broad range of text types (fiction, non-fiction and poetry).

All of these writing skills will be based on children's existing phonic knowledge and the way we use the CLPE materials from 'The Power of Reading' project.

## Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Whilst grammar, punctuation and spelling will be taught throughout the literacy curriculum, these skills will also be taught in discrete, daily lessons to ensure that children become well-rounded and proficient writers.

## Maths

We follow the National Curriculum for Mathematics and the 'Primary Advantage Maths' framework, with daily lessons for all pupils. We want our children to develop: mathematical habits of mind; value mathematics; master basic facts; be mentally agile; be creative problem solvers; tackle complex problems with confidence; read, write and discuss mathematics; apply mathematics in other subject areas and begin to understand and appreciate the role of mathematics in the world.

Understanding mathematics is an essential life skill and all our children need to become good mathematicians. This means that the curriculum and teaching need to address not only the mastery of basic skills and recording but also have a progressive focus on real life mathematics and the more advanced concepts.



## ICT and the use of technology

ICT and the use of technology will be based upon the National Curriculum programmes of study. Children will have access to laptops and iPads throughout their working week, often incorporating this technology into their daily lessons. We will support the children to become confident, safe and appropriate users of ICT who are well prepared for a technology-rich future.

## Sports

We want to promote the benefits of physical activity and ensure that children are aware of the link between physical activity, healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle. We will be sensitive to cultural issues that may influence children's participation and that of their families.

We will base our formal lessons on the National Curriculum programmes of study and there will be regular timetabled activities such as rugby, hockey, football, netball, cricket, athletics, gymnastics, dance and swimming. Alongside these will be opportunities such as surfing and sailing which will build on our existing strong links with Ramsgate Yacht Club and Joss Bay Surf School.

We will provide ALL Key Stage 1 and 2 children with more than the expected two hours per week of physical education, with further opportunities through the co-curriculum and our extended curriculum by offering physical activity sessions before or after school. These will also be designed so that parents and other community members will be able to participate in or lead activities. These sessions will include dance, a wide range of exercise classes, games, walking, cycling, skipping and many more activities that can be continued outside of school.

## Modern Foreign Languages

We will teach French from Reception to Year 6 as part of the formal curriculum. Having knowledge of a foreign language is widely recognised as part of being well-educated and a modern foreign language is a desirable, if not essential, requirement for entry into university, college and good employment.

We have chosen French as our modern foreign language based on the curriculum taught at our family of secondary schools, as well as our geographical location and the ease of visits to France. We will also have a range of activities to support learning French in our extended day and throughout the school year.



## International Primary Curriculum

The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) is one of the fastest-growing curriculums in the world today. It is a comprehensive curriculum for 3 – 11 year olds, with a clear process of learning and with specific learning goals for every subject, for personal learning and for international mindedness.

Within the IPC many subjects are covered:

- Science   ● Geography   ● History   ● Technology   ● Art   ● Society
- International Studies

The IPC is now the curriculum of choice in over 1,600 schools in 92 countries around the world.

The IPC will enable the school to meet its educational vision. Children will enjoy their learning, develop enquiring minds, develop the personal qualities they need to be good citizens of the world and develop a sense of their own nationality and culture. At the same time, they will develop a respect for the heritage, nationality and cultures of others. Most of all, we want our children to develop the skills that they will need to confidently face the world of tomorrow.

## Arts Curriculum

Ramsgate Arts Primary School is dedicated to the Arts. We nurture, encourage and build on creativity, ensuring that our children have the opportunity to be taught the skills of creative subjects which have so often been squeezed out of the Primary Curriculum.

Music, Art, Drama and Dance will be taught as specific subjects by qualified specialists during the afternoons, as well as being integrated into the International Primary Curriculum.

### Music

Every child in the school will take part in a music programme. This programme will comprise of specific musical skills including singing, playing instruments, theory, history and performance. There will be formal music lessons each week based on the National Curriculum programmes of study and as they pass through Key Stage 2, every child will be offered the opportunity to learn to play an instrument.

### Drama

Drama is an art form, a practical activity and an intellectual discipline. At Ramsgate Arts Primary School, drama begins naturally with learning through dramatic play in our Early Years and Key Stage 1 and then in common with all subjects, it requires specific skills, knowledge and understanding which are progressively taught and assessed through and across the key stages building upon previous learning.

Three interrelated activities characterise the subject of drama at all levels: **making, performing and responding.**

### Dance

In dance, children learn and develop many skills; learning the value of discipline, commitment and work ethic, as well as creative thinking skills. Self-confidence develops as children overcome challenges to master new goals, learning to apply themselves and accomplish any task put before them. Dance teaches children about music, rhythm and beat.

Children will have a better understanding of spatial relationships and learn to think with both sides of their brain. All these skills enhance a child's academic performance, as well as their physical well-being.

### Art and Design

Through our partnership with the award-winning Turner Contemporary Gallery, children at Ramsgate Arts Primary School will have many opportunities to experience Art and Design to understand what it is that artists, designers and craft workers do, and to develop their own confidence in using various media and techniques.

Art and Design activities will encourage them to:

- Respond to the world around them;
- Respond to their individual feelings and emotions;
- Develop and use their imagination;
- Express their ideas, thoughts and feelings;
- Solve problems;
- Become more aesthetically aware.



# Involving Parents and Carers

We realise that you are your child's first and most important educator. At Ramsgate Arts Primary School we want to build strong partnerships between staff and parents and carers because we know this is important in helping children to achieve and enjoy learning.

We will keep you well informed about the school and involve you in your child's education. We will do this through weekly newsletters, open class meetings, parent/teacher meetings, end of term parent meetings, mid-year school reports and open days. Communication with parents and carers is very important to us at the Ramsgate Arts Primary School. If we have any concerns about your child's progress, happiness, well-being or behaviour, the teacher will contact you straight away to discuss them with you.

If you have any concerns that you want to discuss with us, please contact us or come and see us as soon as possible. If you want to talk to a member of staff, it is a good idea to telephone, send a note or an e-mail to request a mutually convenient time. The most difficult time for teachers to talk to parents and carers is at the beginning of the school day as it is important for teachers to give their attention to welcoming and settling the children, so please try to help us by leaving discussions until the end of the day.

If you cannot come to school, or do not want to arrange an appointment, you can email, telephone or write to us instead.

Parents with a serious worry or complaint should arrange to talk this over with the Head of School or the Executive Headteacher. We hope that most problems or worries will be sorted out in this way.



If you do not feel that the discussion has resolved the difficulty, you can make a formal complaint. There is a formal procedure for making serious complaints and copies of the procedure are available from the school office.

## How can parents and carers get involved with Ramsgate Arts Primary School?

There are many ways in which parents and carers can support the work of the school. Most importantly, you can really help by supporting your child to come to school on time and ready to learn each day. You can help if you discuss your child's learning with them and also then continue this learning at home. Research shows that children learn more successfully when their parents and carers are interested in what they learn at school.

We realise that children are not always able or willing to tell you what they have been doing at school each day. Therefore, each week, the class teacher will post information on learning in English, Maths and IPC on the school website. This will also include details of home learning tasks and when these have to be completed.

There is always a lot of learning that you can do at home to help children, for example, reading with them, hearing them read, discussing books, learning times tables, understanding money and change, telling the time and playing educational games such as Scrabble.

## Helping in school

We welcome parental help in school but we ask that you commit yourself to a regular time slot so that we can plan for and rely upon your coming. Parents and carers help in classrooms in many ways, including reading with children, working with them on their writing or providing extra adult support. You may also be able to share a special interest or skill with them –pottery, computing, sewing or sports coaching for example.

Please let us know if you would like to help us. All adults who work in school are subject to a full DBS clearance. We can organise this for you.

## Parent Council

Ramsgate Arts Primary School is committed to communicating to all parents effectively. As a school, we have decided to create a School Parent Council team. This team will consist of parents and our Head of School, Nick Budge. This team will work together effectively communicating important messages, ideas, concerns and fundraising events to the rest of the school. We want parents to feel part of the Ramsgate Arts Primary School team and that they have a say in their child's education.

# Your Frequently Asked Questions

## What is a Free School?

Free schools are all-ability state funded schools set up in response to what local people say they want and need in order to improve education for children and their community. A Free School is outside of the control of the Local Authority.

## Does my child have to wear a uniform?

At Ramsgate Arts Primary School we have a smart and comfortable uniform (royal blue v-necked jumper/ tank top or cardigan, a white polo shirt and light grey trousers, shorts or dress. In the summer, girls are able to wear a blue/white gingham dress.)

Jewellery should not be worn, except for stud earrings and watches. Religious items such as a crucifix or Sikh bangle may be worn but must be removed for PE.

Footwear for boys and girls should be black shoes. Pupils may not wear trainers (except for PE), flip flops, sandals or beach shoes.

We ask the children to bring a change of clothes for PE. Navy shorts and a light blue T-shirt, plimsolls or trainers. A navy tracksuit can be worn for colder weather. During swimming boys should wear swimming trunks and girls a plain all-in-one swim suit. Please put your child's PE kit in a bag clearly marked with their name.

Hair should be worn in a reasonably conventional style and long hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons. No extreme hair styles please and this includes un-natural colours.

It is unfortunate that sometimes losses occur within school. We take every effort to find missing items. You can help by labelling all items of clothing and footwear.

**Our school uniform is available at: The Schoolwear Centre, 48-54 Chatham street, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 7PR. Phone number: 01843 584902.**

## How do I apply for a place at Ramsgate Arts Primary School?

Ramsgate Arts Primary School follows the Kent County Council admission procedures. If you would like to make an application for a Reception place please contact the admissions department at Kent County Council.

**For information on how to apply for a place in Kent go to <https://ola.kent.gov.uk/kccadmissions/prefs.php> or phone 0300 41 21 21 or e-mail [kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk) for further advice.**



# And finally...

We hope this Prospectus has given you the information you need about our school.

If there are areas or aspects of the school which you would like to know more about, please do ask. We welcome your interest, questions and comments. We look forward to meeting you and working with you.

Welcome to our partnership.



For more details go to:

[www.ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk)

Email us on:

[enquiries@ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk)

Telephone us on:

**01843 582 847**

or follow us on:

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