

LOVE LEARNING FOR LIFE





WELCOME TO PENBRIDGE SCHOOLS

Dear parents and carers,

We are excited to welcome you to Penbridge Schools.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, we are committed to an ethos of excellence and a whole school approach to the teaching of thinking skills.

Formally known as Penhale Infant School and Newbridge Junior School, we officially joined together earlier this year. Thanks to the merger, our two schools can provide your child with an all through primary education on two sites, Penbridge Infant and Penbridge Junior. Your child will enjoy the benefits of shared teaching expertise, resources and extracurricular activities.

At Penbridge, we seek to instil a thirst for learning through an engaging and creative curriculum, which will inspire children to become confident and curious learners.

We pride ourselves on providing a safe, stimulating and caring environment where children can develop intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially to be prepared for their future lives.

This prospectus aims to provide you with an introduction to our schools, our ethos, and the creative curriculum, which we are immensely proud of. Visits to the schools are always warmly welcomed. Please contact the school office to make an appointment and visit our schools.



Anna Webb
Executive Head Teacher
Penbridge Schools



Miss Caroline Morris
Head of School
Penbridge Infant School



Mrs Karen Denton
Head of School
Penbridge Junior School

VALUES AND VISION

At Penbridge Schools, the children, parents and carers, staff and governors have a common vision and six core values which reflect a passionate commitment to learning and recognition of the uniqueness of individual learners.

Our vision is that every child will 'Love Learning for Life'.

This means that every day is an opportunity to learn something new that children will take forward into the next step of their learning journey. We are part of the 'Thinking School Academy Trust' which means that we work on memory and retrieval skills so that children make links between different areas of learning. We follow an 'all through' model where the children go on to The Portsmouth Academy.

Our values underpin the ethos of our schools:

Show respect

Be kind

Aim high

Be resilient

Be independent

Work well with others





WHAT IS A THINKING SCHOOL?

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is a family of schools that work together to “transform the life chances” of all our children and young people. We share a common mission to nurture successful young people who are confident and can think and act independently.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, Penbridge Schools take pride in the unique approach we take to education: we provide our children with the skills and tools they need to think in a variety of ways and become lifelong learners. We believe that the best way to transform the life chances of our young people and help them achieve their aspirations is by shaping their minds, attitudes and habits through a framework of cognitive education that enables them to become the masters of their own destiny.

Our pupils are equipped with a bank of Thinking Tools designed to prepare them for a range of scenarios, dilemmas, and circumstances that they may face in life as part of modern society. The use of these Tools in our curriculum is supported by scientific and metacognitive research, and pupils are encouraged to apply their tools independently and use them to unlock new ideas. Our Thinking Tools include Thinking Maps, De Bono’s Thinking Hats and Art Costa’s Habits of Mind. These tools are used consistently across all areas of our curriculum and support our children tremendously in their learning and personal growth.

The concept of ‘Being your Best Self’ is also at the heart of our approach to learning at Penbridge Schools, as part of our Thinking School ethos. Children are encouraged to strive to be and achieve their best and are given multiple opportunities to reflect on their learning and work on their personal development.

LEARNING AT PENBRIDGE

'Thinking and Learning'

At Penbridge Schools we want children to be successful learners and develop a lifelong love of learning. We teach the skills they need to be effective learners and the language they need to express how they can become successful across all areas of the curriculum. We use a range of thinking maps, hats and keys to support children to make links between their learning.

We want to make learning irresistible so that all children come to school every day happy and eager to learn. We know that children are naturally inquisitive and we aim to develop this curiosity by providing a curriculum that engages and excites but also provides challenge at the correct level.

'Aim High'

At Penbridge Schools, we believe that children learn best when learning is linked in a meaningful way. We aim for every child to achieve their very best by providing them with the opportunities to do this through a rich, challenging, and engaging curriculum.

Our topic-based curriculum is designed to capture children's interests, excite their imagination, and ensure that everything they learn has a purpose. We encourage our pupils to participate in and personalise their learning by asking them "What do you know already?" and "What would you like to find out?" Learning in safe outdoor spaces is also a regular part of our curriculum. Each topic ends with an opportunity to express what they have learned through our "Prove It" sessions. This is the stage at which children decide how they will demonstrate and prove their learning. This may be by delivering a presentation to parents, producing a booklet, sharing their learning with another class or year group, or creating an exhibition or gallery for parents to come and see.

Our curriculum promotes cognitive education and thinking skills by providing our children with a range of tools and techniques to structure their thoughts. We develop their meta-cognition and meta-memory to help them retrieve knowledge as they move through school and beyond.

For further information about our curriculum and the topics available for your child to enjoy, please go to our website www.penbridgeschool.org.uk





A NURTURING AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Children learn best when they are in an environment which makes them feel happy and safe. We pride ourselves on our high-quality learning environment, which is calm, purposeful and promotes children's independence.

There are high expectations of behaviour and everyone in the school community has a responsibility for maintaining a relaxed, calm, and happy atmosphere. We recognise that all behaviour is communication and that sometimes children need support to make the right choices. Throughout both schools, we will nurture children's social development to support them to recognise and deal effectively with the different emotions they will experience. Through our school values we will equip our children with the skills which will enable them to be polite, confident, hard-working members of society.

Penbridge Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. Staff work hard to maintain an environment where children feel safe and secure.

The curriculum is designed to ensure opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse. Children know they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried and that they will receive a consistent supportive response.

PENBRIDGE NURSERY

Our staff build relationships quickly with children to ensure they have the best start with us. We discuss with parents the children's routines so that we can make a smooth transition as they start in nursery. Children are invited to settling in sessions so they get to know the routine and become familiar with the environment.

A THINKING NURSERY

We are a 'Thinking' nursery. We provide hands on engaging experiences that stimulate children's senses so that the brain develops.

TAILORED CURRICULUM

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, our 'curiosity' curriculum is planned by staff who understand the next stage of education and are committed to laying the very best foundations during the early years for their all-through thinking journey. We use children's interests to develop learning opportunities.

LIGHTING UP LEARNING

We know that learning habits are vital for success. We support the children to become independent and resilient learners.

The Penbridge Nursery is located on the Penbridge Infant School site.





RAINBOW FISH

The Inclusion Centre is a resourced provision for children who have an EHCP (or are currently undergoing assessment), and are awarded placement by the Inclusion Support Panel (ISP), run by Portsmouth City Council's SEN Team. The children work towards being able to integrate into mainstream for some learning, with a high level of support from the provision staff to meet their specific needs.

THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum centres on each child of Rainbow Fish class as an individual, looking at their starting points and next steps. We follow the EYFS and National Curriculum, however, this is highly tailored to the needs of the children. We work closely with the mainstream part of Penbridge to ensure that there are meaningful opportunities for children to integrate and learn in their link classes where appropriate.

To ensure that our curriculum is child-centred, we work with a range of other professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists to ensure that each child's holistic needs are being met as part of our curriculum.

Our topics are closely linked to the mainstream part of the school to support integration. These topics are a vehicle to the individualised learning for those children within the Inclusion Centre as their learning will be highly personalised to their individual needs.



WORKING WITH PARENTS

Our aim is to work closely with parents which is why we start with a home visit to ensure that our staff know the children as well as possible before they start within the Inclusion Centre.

We use communication books which go between home and school so that all adults involved with the child know about the day-to-day details and children are well supported. We also hold termly parents evenings to discuss the children's next steps.

If you would like more information about The Rainbowfish Centre or would like a tour please call Penbridge Infant School on 0333 360 2185.



ALL THROUGH EDUCATION AT THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST



In Portsmouth, we have created a unique offer for parents; the chance for your child to experience an 'all through' educational journey where they stay with the same family of schools.

We have a number of infant/junior and all-through primaries in the city and our secondary school – The Portsmouth Academy. Each of our schools has adapted their admissions policies so that parents get a priority preference, when applying for a place in another thinking school.

To accommodate children in the primary phase carrying their journey on, we changed The Portsmouth Academy into a co-educational school and increased the number of places in Year 7 from 200 to 250, investing millions into new facilities to support these changes.

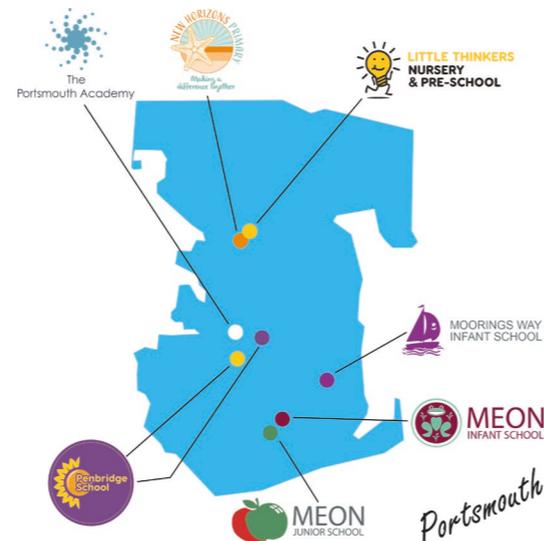
All-through education has many potential benefits for your child. First and foremost, our multi-academy Trust does have a shared approach to teaching children, a language of learning that is taught and then built upon. This consistency helps to accelerate children's progress as they understand what to do, and how to do it. Indeed, developing metacognition right from the early years has been shown to have a massive effect on young people's learning capacity. In addition, the familiarity is reassuring and helps make changing schools easier.

Secondly, our teachers and leaders work really closely together. This means we can design a curriculum that builds on what children already know. Our experienced Headteachers work very closely together to identify and implement strategies that we know will make a massive difference to children's progress in school, confidence and well-being. We are innovative and forward-thinking and work with the local authority to both share our good practice, and also to learn from others beyond our Multi-Academy Trust.

Children see us moving between schools and the continuation of our relationships with them helps them to feel a sense of belonging, security and of being looked after.



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