

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



ELSTOW
SCHOOL

ASPIRATION
RESPECT • HONESTY

www.elstowschool.co.uk



CONTENTS

WELCOME 02

HISTORY 04

OUR VISION AND VALUES 05

OUR CURRICULUM 06

SPORT 09

READING 10

KEEPING YOU INFORMED 11

ADMISSIONS 11

TRANSITIONS 12

UNIFORM 13

SCHOOL DAY 13

ASPIRATION • RESPECT • HONESTY

WELCOME

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Elstow School.

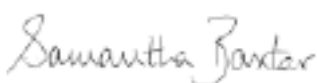
At Elstow, we believe that all our children are entitled to the very best teaching. We develop a love of learning through an academic knowledge-based curriculum. We inspire children to be curious, resilient and to persevere to succeed. The academic achievement of our pupils is of paramount importance to us.

We are very proud of our pupils and work hard to ensure we create a warm, inclusive atmosphere where children are comfortable making mistakes, where they try their best and where we ensure they learn how to behave in school and in society. We make sure they know that they are part of 'Team Elstow'. Every morning, the whole school stands together for a greeting where I remind them how our values guide us, and how we 'work hard and be nice' to enrich the lives of each other, our community and to enrich all of our futures.

We have a well-established and dynamic teaching team, who ensure regular communication and links with families. We have strong pastoral support including a Family Support Worker on site. The leadership team are on the school gates every morning and evening to greet and talk about successes and deal with worries from parents, carers and pupils.

I hope you find the information in this prospectus helpful and look forward to welcoming you and your child to Elstow.

Best wishes,



Principal



WE INSPIRE CHILDREN
TO BE CURIOUS, RESILIENT
AND TO PERSEVERE
TO SUCCEED.



THIS IS
A GREAT
SCHOOL
WITH
LOTS OF
SUPPORT
FROM
TEACHERS.

Y4 Parent

ASPIRATION • RESPECT • HONESTY

HISTORY

A FOUNDING MEMBER OF ADVANTAGE SCHOOLS

In 2017, Elstow School joined Bedford Free School to create an exceptional choice for families in Bedford and Elstow.

We believe that the quality of state primary education in the United Kingdom can be significantly better and are determined to show how.

We therefore strive to show what can be different. As part of Advantage Schools we adopt an outward-facing approach, welcoming colleagues from other schools, and hence we have links with the best performing schools.

Our staff have access to some of the best professional learning in the country, all in the name of very high expectations for pupils and staff.

ELSTOW SCHOOL OFFERS A TRULY ENRICHED AND ACADEMIC CURRICULUM. WE REALLY DO BELIEVE THAT OUR PUPILS CAN GO ON TO ACHIEVE EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?

We believe that young people are entitled to access the best that has been thought and said.

So our focus is on what pupils learn. We focus on academic subjects ensuring that by age 11 our pupils are exceptionally knowledgeable.

Our extensive professional learning offer to staff means that we attract and retain some of the best-trained teachers and support staff in the country.

We believe in routine and structure so that our pupils learn a lot, and our teachers are able to teach, uninterrupted by distractions.



OUR VISION AND VALUES

WHAT WE STRIVE FOR

We believe, given the right circumstances, all children are capable of extraordinary things.

We take our trust values of Aspiration, Respect and Honesty very seriously. They underpin our routines, our curriculum, and what we strive to develop in our pupils. Each week, a whole-school assembly focuses on discussions about the news, about how we do our best, and on ways that we celebrate and reward excellent effort.

We work hard on our culture in which the highest expectations and aspirations surround all of our pupils, delivering on our families' demand for excellent educational opportunities. It is particularly important to us that celebrations include opportunities for parents to be present - and this is through invitations to witness certificates given to children in each class on Friday mornings for achievement and for showing value-driven behaviour. Our children all shake hands to receive their award and teachers delight in explaining to parents why they have been chosen.

In turn, we expect our pupils to work very hard to meet the high expectations that the school and parents have of them. Our aim is that pupils who come to Elstow School break through any barriers and achieve their full potential.



ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

ACADEMIC AND BALANCED

We deliver a broad and balanced curriculum at Elstow. For writing and mathematics, we have teachers who are subject-specialists.

From Year 2 to Year 6, pupils are taught by one specialist teacher for mathematics and another specialist teacher for writing. Children benefit from high quality lessons and use classrooms that are suitable for the subject. They also learn to transition between classrooms quickly and quietly.

All pupils have a rich academic curriculum in science – which in key stage 2 is focused on investigations in physics, chemistry and biology. They learn to set up experiments, record results and learn to connect what they have seen with what they already know. Pupils also follow a coherent curriculum for history, geography, art and religious education. All of these are carefully planned and taught both in the classroom and through extensive trips to help pupils remember what they have learned.

In music, there are opportunities to sing in music assemblies each week, as well as join a choir and learn rhythm and musical notation in class. Across the school, there is the opportunity to learn on tuned and untuned percussion.

We work very hard on the content of our curriculum in each subject across all of our pupils' seven years at Elstow to ensure that pupils gain the necessary knowledge to equip them to transition to secondary school as informed and capable young people.





A S P I R A T I O N • R E S P E C T • H O N E S T Y





SPORT

MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION

At Elstow we encourage all our pupils to have a full and active involvement in sport.

We strive to give pupils as many sporting opportunities as possible and are proud of the high numbers of pupils we have participating. From early years through key stage 1 we focus on fitness, dexterity and fun.

Pupils are on site for PE lessons, many of which are taught by specialist teachers from our partner secondary school. We also play competitively. We aim to include every key stage 2 pupil at Elstow in school fixtures each year. If a pupil wants to represent the school in a fixture then they will represent the school.

In partnership with our secondary school, we take the teams off site in minibuses, and we also run numerous sports trips each year to expose students professional sport and venues.

WE STRIVE TO
GIVE PUPILS AS
MANY SPORTING
OPPORTUNITIES
AS POSSIBLE



READING

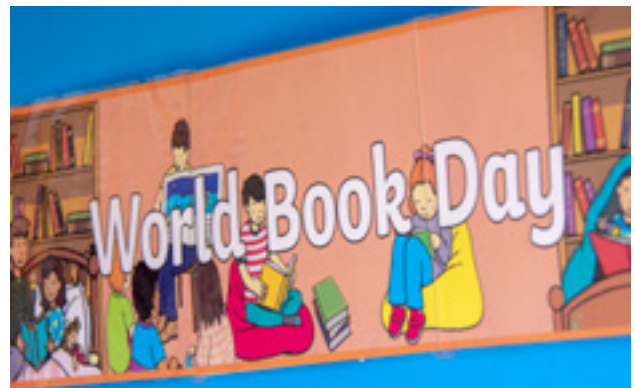
BROADENING HORIZONS

Our reading programme focuses on enriching and widening vocabulary.

We share texts with pupils that are of all types, including narrative and non-fiction, such as reports focussed on topics from our knowledge-based curriculum. In reading lessons, which are taught by every teacher over a five day cycle, the focus is on decoding and then answering both literal and inference questions, making links and connections with the ideas and themes. Our phonics outcomes are excellent and can be seen in the pocket at the back.

The library has a system which allows children to borrow books each week. All classes have time in the library and there is a range of quality texts to support the curriculum and learning.

THE FOCUS IS ON
DECODING AND
THEN ANSWERING
BOTH LITERAL AND
INFERENCE QUESTIONS



INFORMED

KEEPING YOU UPDATED

We ensure that all parents receive a report annually on how their children are doing.

As well as this, parents are informed daily at the classroom door, if there are any issues which might warrant discussion. At this point, teachers also will take the opportunity to say what has gone well – we love to celebrate all successes – small and big!

To keep pupils safe, we telephone all parents of pupils who are absent the same day. We monitor attendance carefully and are diligent in letting parents know if their child is missing out on education through absence.

The school website has timetables, knowledge organisers, curriculum maps and homework pages so parents are able to find out what their child is learning and support that at home.



ADMISSIONS

NO SELECTION BY ABILITY

All applications for places at Elstow School are made in accordance with the Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements and will be made on the common application form provided and administered by the Local Authority. These can be obtained through the Bedford Borough website www.bedford.gov.uk

Once Bedford Borough has processed your application it will be forwarded to us here at Elstow School. A place will be offered if we have not reached our published admission number in that year group.

The School Office will then contact you to arrange an initial meeting. If we are unable to offer a place you will be contacted by Bedford Borough Council who will advise you on how to proceed.

TRANSITIONS

NURTURING AND SUPPORTIVE



TRANSITION INTO ELSTOW

Our brilliant outcomes in Early Years have a lot to do with the extensive process of handover from nurseries and ensuring our children are settled in school.

All families have home visits from the specialist Early Years Team. Children meet their teachers, and parents and carers can ask questions and help prepare their children for school life. All the information about lunches, uniforms and teaching and learning is shared during this time. After the first few weeks, the login for the Interactive Learning Diary is given out so that parents can add details of their child's home learning and activities to the journal in school for their child. This will form a detailed document of the Reception year for parents which is given out at the end of the year with the annual report.

At the start of term, which is usually a week after the main school beginning in September, the focus is very much on learning routines and becoming independent. The continuous provision in the afternoons concentrates on learning to share, engage in imaginative play and begin to become more able to co-operate.

TRANSITION TO SECONDARY

Starting secondary school is a big step, so we make the transition process as smooth as possible.

We foster links with all local secondary schools, and in the summer term there are multiple events arranged for pupils to visit their new school and become accustomed to where they will be going for year 7. Activities include joint sports (Year 7 from Bedford Free School with Y6 for football and netball sessions); sports competitions and taster days for science and teachers and pupils coming in to deliver assemblies and talks. Pupils who might need extra support in transition are particularly noted – we work with parents and schools to ensure that any SEND or inclusion needs are known and that pastoral links are made. We know how important it is to make the move to 'Big School' with confidence and certainty.

We use our partners at Bedford Free School to explain how secondary school is different to primary and what to expect, regardless of which secondary school pupils go on to.

UNIFORM

SMART APPEARANCE

**Elstow School uniform is smart,
with particular requirements for PE.**

Please see the pocket at the back of this prospectus
or the website for further more detailed information:
www.elstowschool.co.uk



SCHOOL DAY

SUPPORTIVE OF FAMILIES

**We run an extended school day that is supportive of families and ensures that our pupils learn more.
A typical day runs as follows:**

- 7.30:** Breakfast club opens
- 8:25:** Gates open
- 8:40:** Whole-school morning address on the school values in the playground
- 8.45:** Assembly (Monday – School Values, Friday – Celebration)
- 9.00:** Lessons start
- 15.30:** Lessons finish
- 15.30:** Sport clubs offered (sign up required)
- 15.30:** After school club opens on site
- 18:00:** School closes





THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT, I WOULD RECOMMEND ELSTOW SCHOOL VERY HIGHLY.

Year 6 parent

MY CHILD LOVES COMING TO SCHOOL; AS A PARENT I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER WITH THIS SCHOOL.

Year R parent



MY CHILDREN REALLY ENJOY SCHOOL AND ANY CONCERNS I HAVE HAD HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DEALT WITH.

Year 2 and Year 4 Parent

At Advantage Schools, we are determined that all pupils should be able to attend university at age 18, including the most selective universities.

Guided by our values of Aspiration, Respect and Honesty, we believe pupils should be given the knowledge and character to make a difference in their community and their lives. The expert teaching and support team at Elstow are determined that our pupils get the very best provision.

If it is not good enough for my own three children, it is not good enough for us at Advantage Schools. This guides every decision we make, including our recruitment of staff.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions or queries.

With very best wishes,

Stuart Lock
Executive Principal



ELSTOW
SCHOOL

T: 01234 302300

E: enquiries@elstowschool.co.uk

Abbeyfield Road, Abbey Fields,
Elstow, Bedford MK42 9GP

www.elstowschool.co.uk

ASPIRATION • RESPECT • HONESTY