

# Park Middle School

## *Mission statement*

We at Park Middle School strive to create a stimulating and challenging environment in which each individual develops the confidence to achieve his or her full and unique potential.

We aim to make our school a happy, caring and safe community based on mutual respect and shared values.

2 June 2003



# The Aims of the School

## What are we aiming for?

All pupils at Park Middle School will

- Be happy and safe
- Be enabled to set themselves targets that will draw out their finest achievement.
- Be challenged and excited by their learning.
- Have their needs; learning, behavioural and physical, fully supported.
- Be recognized in ways that are valued by the school community for all of their achievement.
- Learn to care for one another, the adults who work with them and the wider community.

## How the pupils will achieve this:

### **As a school we will**

- ✓ set and assess appropriate and challenging work to raise your child's levels of achievement in a school which is stimulating and safe;
- ✓ make sure homework is set appropriately and understood by your child to suit their ability; realistic for the time available; assessed
- ✓ set targets for your child and help them to monitor and manage their learning;
- ✓ have school rules which your child and you understand;
- ✓ keep all parents/carers informed about events and school activities through regular newsletters;
- ✓ look at the student planner each week;
- ✓ check on your child's attendance and punctuality;

- ✓ tell the pupils and parents whenever we are pleased and discuss with you as soon as possible any concerns including behaviour and punctuality;
- ✓ listen to the concerns of you and your child;
- ✓ inform you of your child's progress and of their strengths, areas for developments and targets.

Form teacher .....

**As a pupil I will**

- ✓ attend school regularly and punctually;
- ✓ rise to the challenges set and aim to improve my levels of achievement;
- ✓ tell my teacher when I have a success or any concern to share;
- ✓ follow the school Golden Rules and follow the classroom rules for learning behaviour;
- ✓ share responsibility for our community showing respect and consideration for others at all times;
- ✓ look after and use my student planner;
- ✓ write my homework in my student planner and complete all my homework on time and to the best of my ability;
- ✓ wear my school uniform;
- ✓ make sure that my parents are aware of events in school.

Pupil signature: .....



# **A WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

## **AIM**

We aim to develop the children's awareness of the increasing diversity of the society in which we live. The children should be equipped to develop their own attitudes towards a pluralistic society. The school's experience is that children of all backgrounds should be part of our community.

## **STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE**

1. Discrimination on the basis of colour, culture, origin, nationality, gender and ability is unacceptable in our school.
2. All people in school will contribute towards a happy and caring environment by showing respect for and appreciation of each other, as individuals.
3. An objective for our school, will be to educate, develop and prepare our children, whatever their gender, culture, colour, origin, nationality or ability, for life.
4. An equal opportunities philosophy will be practised by all staff in line with the Staffordshire County Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

## **METHODS**

### **Admissions**

The school follows the LEA/Governing Body Admission Policy, which does not permit gender, race, colour or disability to be used as a criteria for admission.

## **Registration**

Children's names should be accurately recorded and correctly pronounced. Children should be encouraged to accept and respect names from other cultures.

## **Discrimination**

All forms of discrimination within the school should be treated seriously. Incidents should be logged whenever they take place in the school. It should be explained to the offender why the behaviour is unacceptable.



## **Curriculum**

All pupils have access to the school's curriculum. Staff must be aware that their own expectations affect the achievements, behaviour and status of each pupil. The curriculum must be balanced, objective and sensitive.

## **Language**

Staff should be aware of the language and dialect spoken by the children and their families, in order that it is valued and respected. They should be allowed to use their home language, but never use it to exclude others.

## **Resources**

The school's aim is to provide for all pupils according to their needs, irrespective of gender, ability or ethnic origins. In selecting curriculum resources, staff should aim to present positive images that are non racist and non sexist. Children should be presented with accurate information about similarities and differences between cultural groups.

# Head's Statement

Park Middle School is a "good school". Staffordshire County Council says so and so does the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED). A whole host of advisers, inspectors, people from the Biddulph community and prospective parents have come and visited us and they have felt the same way about us too. In school we are gratified to be judged to be "good" especially as we know that this accolade means that any pupil who comes to the school will progress well and will enjoy a happy safe four years with us.

But we want to be better than this. We want to be the best middle school in Staffordshire. We have started something very exciting in this school and we want to take it to the limit.

Park Middle School has so much going for it. Over the last two years a teaching team has come together that is exceptional and that has the potential to be great. The team is complimented by our hugely successful group of Teaching Assistants and a new Office team of rare quality. Our lunchtime/breakfast team would make Jamie Oliver eat his words as well as show him some fantastic school dinners.

We all work in what must be by far the best school facilities dedicated to the age group 9-13 anywhere in the county. We have sports facilities that are the envy of any visiting teams and we have space, equipment and teaching areas that make a huge range of activities possible.

Our pupils like coming to school! Attendance is improving and the OFSTED inspection team saw well-behaved children who were supported by very good pastoral care, as well as being inspired by clear moral and spiritual leadership.

Our teachers plan great lessons. Learning at Park Middle School is interesting, engaging and it is fun! Children with Special Educational Needs progress well at the school whether their needs are to do with learning behaviour or to do with physical challenges. Children who are "gifted and talented" have their needs supported too. We track every child individually at the school, negotiating with them targets that are just right for them and then helping them to achieve at the right levels.

These are pretty powerful arguments for coming to join us. If you are ambitious and want to achieve your very best; if you are ready for learning that is fun and challenging; if you are prepared to take part in a thriving lively community where we look after each other, then you really do belong at Park Middle School.

**Mr Hart - Headteacher**

# School Governors

The Governors of the school have overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. The governing body is made up of 16 members, each of whom serves for a period of 4 years.

They are as follows:

Mrs. Sharon Bowers	Chair of Governors, County Council
Mr Gordon Hart	Headteacher
Mrs. J Ashley	Clerk to the Governors
Mr. Nigel Bowers	Community
Mr Nick Broad	Staff
Mrs. Tina Brough	Parent Governor
Miss Angela Deakin	Parent Governor
Mrs Sheila Elliott	Community
Mr. Frank Harris	Community
Mrs. Maggie Jukes	Parent Governor
Mrs Nowicki	Parent Governor
Ms Helen Pemberton	Staff
Mr Alan Thomas	County Council
Mrs Suzanne Senn	Parent Governor
Mrs. Jackie Shelley	County Council
Mrs Julie Simcock	Parent Governor
Mrs. Lynne Yoxall	Parent Governor
Mr. Ian Shields	Deputy Headteacher - Associate
Mr. Neville Wood	Staff

Throughout the year the Governors hold a series of meetings and deal with a wide variety of matters relating to the school. All Governors are members of various committee - Finance; Curriculum; Staffing; Conduct, or Premises. The Chairperson and Headteacher are members of all sub-committees and can attend all meetings.



## Members of Staff and what they do

Name	Position	Tutor Group
Mr G Hart	Headteacher	
Mr I D Shields	Deputy Headteacher	
Miss K Davies	SENCO	
Mrs K Baggaley	Class Teacher	
Mr N Broad	Leader Maths and Numeracy	
Mrs J Byrne	Class Teacher	
Mr S Champ	Class Teacher – Leader ICT	
Miss L Clare	Assistant Leader Maths/Numeracy	
Miss E Durose	Class Teacher	
Mrs A Finch	Leader Music – Leader year 7	
Mrs B Foster	Leader Y5	
Mr A Goring	Leader Art and Design Technology	
Mrs A Hall	Class Teacher	
Miss W Holford	Leader PE Leader PSE	
Mr N Jones	Class Teacher Assistant Leader Science	
Mrs Krieger Ford	Leader German	
Mrs V Marsh	Leader Y8	
Ms H Pemberton	Class Teacher	
Mrs T Price	Leader Y6	
Mr D Sadler	Leader Assessment	
Mr J Wilkinson	Leader Science	
Mrs J Worthington	Leader English/Literacy	
Miss C Coates	Teaching Assistant	
Mrs A Hancock	Teaching Assistant	
Mrs S Jones	Teaching Assistant	
Mrs T Shufflebotham	Teaching Assistant	
Mrs S Woods	Teaching Assistant	
Mrs M Carribine	Bursar	
Miss P McKee	Leader School Administration/PA to the Head	
Mrs D Moss	Administrator	
Miss C Hollins	Junior Administrator	
Mr N Wood	Science Laboratory Technician/Teaching Assistant	
Mr M Pennington	ICT Systems Manager	
Mr N Hopper	School Site Supervisor	
Mrs S Hargreaves	School Catering Manager	
Miss C Coates	Senior Lunchtime Supervisor	
Mrs H Dalgleish	Lunchtime Supervisor	
Mrs S Jones	Lunchtime Supervisor	
Mrs K Page	Lunchtime Supervisor	

# The School Structure

When your child comes to Park Middle School they are placed into Form Tutor groups of about 25 children per groups. These groups are of mixed ability and are constructed on the basis of friendship patterns, their Year 4 class teachers recommendations and, parents advice. This will help develop a close relationship between your child, the Form Tutor and yourself. The Year Leader, Mrs Forster has overall responsibility for pupils in Year 5.



The liaison with your child's First School starts long before they arrive at Park Middle School. Close consultation with our feeder schools is very important as this allows us to get to know their levels of ability, their learning styles and their likes and dislikes.

If you need to discuss any matter with a member of staff the normal lines of communication between the home and school should be:

Form Tutor - Year Head - Deputy Head/Headteacher.

All pupils are issued with school planners. They do many jobs including recording all homework and recognising classroom achievement. They also provide an excellent way for school and home to communicate with one another.

The children are also attached to one of our 4 houses:

Mars, Mercury, Neptune and Jupiter

Our whole school policy in rewards is based in the house system. Also various activities including competitions and assemblies are organised for children in each house group.

## **The School Day**

Our school day begins with registration at 8.55 a.m., however children are allowed into the school at 8.50 a.m. We are also very fortunate to have a supervised Breakfast Club which starts at 8.10 a.m. Children who are not attending Breakfast Club should arrive no earlier than 8.40 a.m. as there may not be sufficient staff to deal with any emergencies before this time.

The children finish the school day at 3.30 p.m. and many parents collect their child from the front gate. Members of staff will be on duty at this time.

If you do collect your child by car please be considerate of our neighbours when parking your car. In addition the school entrances should not be blocked nor may parents use the school car parks for reasons of health and safety.

### **School Times**

Children brought in	8.50 a.m.
Registration	8.55 a.m.
Morning break	11.05- 11.20 a.m.
Lunchtime	12.15- 1.15 p.m.
School ends	3.30 p.m.

## School lunches and morning break

At Lunchtime your child may have a school lunch, bring their own packed lunch, or go home for lunch. School lunches should be ordered and paid for on a daily basis.



Our school meals are prepared on the premises and to a very high standard. The cost of this will be £1.65 per day. If your child has been receiving free school meals then this entitlement will be transferred from your child's present school.

Your child may wish to bring a packed lunch. This should be kept inside a suitable lunch box in order to keep it fresh. If they do bring a drink please ensure that it is not in a glass bottle. They should also bring their own cutlery.

If you want your child to go home for lunch they will only be allowed to do so with your written consent. They should not return to school before 1.05 p.m. Please be aware that the school crossing patrol is not on duty at lunchtimes and that pupils are expected to have lunch at home.

Children are allowed to bring water into school in unbreakable containers for consumption throughout the day.



## Absences

If your child is going to be absent for any reason please inform the school that morning or as soon as possible. If we do not hear from you a member of staff will contact you during the day.

We ask that you try not to take your child out of school for family holidays as this does have an effect upon their education. However, if this is unavoidable please ask for a 'Holiday form' from the school office. The Headteacher can give permission for the children to be out of school for up to 10 days per year.



# The Curriculum

The curriculum is made up of all the opportunities for learning provided by the school. It includes the formal and planned programme of lessons, and extra-curricular activities and out of school activities including residential.

The school aims to offer your child a broad, balanced curriculum which includes a wide range of activities that we feel important for the development of your child regardless of age, background, race, abilities or gender.

In all areas of the curriculum we will aim to:

- 1) Promote achievement at its highest levels for each individual pupil.
- 2) Help all pupils develop their ability to become independent learners able to take responsibility for their own learning.
- 3) Develop imaginative and creative responses and also critical and analytical capability in pupils.
- 4) Generate enthusiasm, interest and enjoyment.

The curriculum at Park Middle School includes all National Curriculum subjects:

English (literacy), Mathematics (numeracy), Science, Information and Communications Technology, Art, Design Technology, Geography, German, History, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education and PSHE.



## **Inclusion and Special Educational Needs**

It is the aim of Park Middle School that every pupil should achieve at a very high level as well as thoroughly enjoying his/her time at school. The special needs department under the leadership of Miss Davies works hard to make learning accessible to all pupils regardless of their additional needs.

Teachers are assessing and monitoring the progress of their pupils all the time. If there are concerns about aspects of learning or behaviour, teaching is adjusted and refined to respond to those needs. If this does not result in expected progress then Miss Davies and her team are alerted and further steps are put into place. These may involve: modified teaching, additional work, separate small group or one-to-one teaching, support from teaching assistants, modified homework and many other strategies. If we need to seek expert professional advice, we have close links with other agencies such as the Education Psychologist Service, Behaviour Support or the Child and Adolescent Service with whom we will plan further help. They are all just a phone call away.

All of this activity is very strictly monitored so that pupils and parents know exactly what is going on and so that the school can easily put in place just the right solutions for each type and level of need. Parents can initiate any of this activity themselves if they feel that their children are not having the success that we all hope for or if they are not happy.

Our team of teaching assistants are extremely able and very resourceful. Pupils feel very well supported and teachers and parents have great confidence in their work.

# Teaching

We aim to provide the greatest opportunities for our pupils by employing a balance of methods that will match to the preferred learning styles and the multiple intelligences of all of our pupils.

At Park Middle School we aim to use teaching methods that are effective and appropriate to the needs of your children. Children in all classes will, speak, listen, read, write, draw and construct. They will express themselves through movement, through drama and through music. They will also experience first hand, research and observe. We will endeavour at all times to make the experiences as lively and as practical as we possibly can.

We recognise the fundamental importance of reading to pupils at Park Middle School. We have begun a two year development plan to develop further our capabilities as a school. We will encourage and support reading through activities within and outside classrooms and also in partnership with parents.





# Assessment and Testing

Children in school are constantly being assessed by the class teacher. Assessment by the teacher is a vital element in the planning of the curriculum and contributes to all stages of the child's learning. We use accurate assessment to set targets for pupils throughout their time at Park Middle School. We track the progress of children against these targets to ensure that the best progress is being made.

Under the requirements of the National Curriculum children are tested at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) the SATs! The results of these tests are reported to parents and published in the School Prospectus (see Appendix no. 1). We also undertake 'optional' SAT's during years 5, 7 and 8.



Within the school, these tests are used to confirm the teacher's own assessments and to plan the next stage of development for the individual child.

Standardised and diagnostic tests in reading are carried out annually. The results of these tests may be given to individual parents but are NOT published.

The children will also undertake a PIMS test in Year 5. This test indicates levels that children can aim for and also their attitude towards school. The school had introduced CATs (Cognitive Attainment Tests) for year 5 and year 7. These provide further information about learning styles and abilities.

In Years 7 and 8 the pupils take a MIDYAS test, which builds upon the test taken in Year 5.

## Reporting to Parents

At Park Middle School we operate an “open door” policy in that we actively encourage parents to make appointments to come into the school to discuss any problems or difficulties.

We will usually make arrangements for parents to discuss their children's progress either with the class teacher, the Year Leader or the Headteacher at very short notice if it is felt that there is a problem, or where children appear to be unhappy.

More formal occasions, Parents consultation Evenings, take place in the Autumn Term and the Spring Term following the mid year review.

Reports, detailing the children's progress in all areas of the school curriculum are issued to parents early in the Spring Term and at the end of the Summer Term.

*An important part of your child's planner is the whole school agreement section. This sets out what your child and you can expect from the school. It also sets out what your child's contribution to their education is and how you contribute. We ask you to discuss this document with your child and sign it. Your child's form tutor will then sign the appropriate section.*

# Behaviour

At Park Middle School we expect high standards of behaviour throughout the school at all times from all our pupils. We adopt a positive approach to behaviour management, pupils are rewarded for good behaviour in classrooms through verbal praise, signature and stickers, leading to awards for bronze, silver, gold, platinum and diamond certificates and vouchers. Where pupils do not comply with rules, warnings are given and sanctions applied if the pupil does not heed the warning.

To ensure that you are fully aware of the policy, the classroom rules are detailed below

## Classroom Rules

We will be polite and respectful by:

- Doing as we are asked the first time
- Listening carefully to the person who has permission to speak
- Putting up our hand if we wish to speak
- Bringing our Planner, pen, pencil and ruler to the lesson
- Remaining seated unless given permission to move
- Allowing others to learn

## Rewards

- Verbal Praise, feedback
- Signature
- 5 Signatures = 1 Sticker
- 10 Stickers = Bronze Certificate (School Pencil)
- 20 Stickers = Silver Certificate (School Pen)
- 30 Stickers = Gold Certificate (In house voucher, ICT pass/Early lunch/Disco)
- 40 Stickers = Platinum Certificate (Stationery item from school shop)
- 50 Stickers = Diamond certificate (£2.00 voucher for Woolworth's or school stationery shop)
- (2<sup>nd</sup> Bronze – Rubber with school name)
- (2<sup>nd</sup> Silver – Ruler with school name)
- (2<sup>nd</sup> Diamond - £3.00 voucher)
- (3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze – Key Fob)(3<sup>rd</sup> Silver – Book Mark)
- (3<sup>rd</sup> Diamond - £4.00 voucher)

## Sanctions

- Issue Request
- Rule Reminder
- Verbal Warning
- Yellow Slip
- Red Slip
- Isolation Unit
- 1 Yellow Slip = 10 Minute detention
- 3 Yellow Slips = 1 Red slip
- 1 Red Slip = 30 minute Detention
- 3 Red Slips = Evening Detention

# English at Park Middle School

With specialist and dedicated teachers, the English department aims to ensure that our students leave Park Middle School equipped with the skills in English that will lead to success at the high School and in their chosen career.

By using a variety of lively and interesting novels, plays, newspaper stories and poetry we teach the reading and writing objectives as set out by the National Curriculum to pupils of all abilities in Y5, Y6, Y7 and Y8. English lessons are about inspiring pupils to achieve their full potential and gaining the necessary skills but they are also about learning through fun, interactive tasks, drama and role-play.

The English Department is also committed to enriching pupils' learning by organising theatre visits, work shops with well-known authors and theatre companies. Each year, members of the English teaching team direct and produce the school play encouraging pupils from all year groups to take part. Our last production, 'Gel' was outstanding as many of our past and present pupils will proudly tell you.

Finally a quote from Benjamin Zephaniah, Poet, Writer, Actor and T.V Presenter, which we as a department fully endorse:

*English is the language of the future, the language of the computer. English is the most important tool you'll ever need, no matter what career you choose. You have the right to English. Make it your right!*

## **Mathematics at Park Middle School**

Mathematics teaching at Park Middle is designed to allow pupils to be at ease and confident with numbers. We also aim to develop a positive attitude and approach that develops alongside this confidence.

We work to enable pupils to gain the language skills and skills necessary for life and employment in the ever changing technical world in which we live.

During their time at Park Middle School pupils work on the application of number; algebra; data handling; shape and space, incorporating training in logical thought; recognition of patterns and problem solving techniques. This enables pupils to make progress in accordance with the requirements of the National Numeracy Strategy and the National Curriculum.

# Science at Park Middle School

Science is a popular subject with boys and girls. All pupils study a wide variety of topics involving plants, animals, solids, liquids and gases. They will use circuit boards, make substances disappear and come back and discover lots of exciting things during their work. The local environment will be used from time to time.



Lessons will often have some practical work where pupils themselves will be investigating using scientific apparatus. From time to time they will watch videos, do personal research, conduct surveys, make small models and enjoy other hands on science activities to bring science alive. They will have the chance to go on school visits, use Bunsen burners and microscopes and will be able to share their knowledge with the class through their varied studies. All pupils should see how their work helps them to appreciate the world around them.



## **German at Park Middle School**

Pupils start learning German from Year 5. Through the study of a foreign language they are able to gain an understanding of another country and its culture. Pupils also learn about the basic structures of language and enhance their German reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through class work and homework activities.

The school runs a two-yearly excursion to the Rhineland where pupils can use their German and experience life in another country

## **Religious Education**

In Religious Education at Park Middle School, pupils learn about the diversity of religious beliefs and practices around us so that they might understand and appreciate the views of others.

Throughout the four years, pupils are introduced to aspects of the major world faiths: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism though a wide range



of activities including drama, role play, art, extended writing and educational visits. Pupils are also encouraged to discuss/debate moral issues which are of particular concern in the world today and they study, in depth, the lives of contemporary leaders of faith whose work in the community has greatly influenced the lives of others.

### **Parents Rights to withdraw Children from RE and/or Collective Worship**

Daily collective worship is a requirement of the Act, either as a whole school, or in groups. At Park Middle School we blend individual class worship with whole school assemblies and inter-class worship. These may draw upon readings, music, current events, television and radio programmes, guest speakers and the children's class work and are taken by the Headteacher members of staff and invited guest.

Parents have a legal right to request that their child be withdrawn from lessons in Religious Education or from acts of collective worship. This is in consultation with the Headteacher.

## **History at Park Middle School**

History fires pupils' curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world. Pupils consider how the past influences the present, what past societies were like, how these societies organised themselves and what beliefs and cultures influenced people's actions. As they do this, pupils develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people.



In history, pupils find evidence, weigh it up and reach their own conclusions. To do this they need to be able to research, sift through evidence, and argue for their point of view- skills that are prized in adult life.

Pupils studying history will experience a range of lessons including computer based research lessons, role-play lessons and field visits in each year group.

## **Geography at Park Middle**

Geography at Park Middle School aims to stimulate pupils' interest in their surroundings and help them to take responsibility for the environment in which they live.

In their time at Park Middle School pupils will gain knowledge and understanding of places, geographical processes and environmental change. They will undertake geographical enquiries and will concentrate on using and enhancing their geographical skills.

They will cover a range of topics including their local environment, map skills, weather and climate, tourism and natural hazards.

## Physical Education at Park Middle School

Physical Education at Park is a subject that is taken very seriously. We have a dedicated team of staff who use the extensive facilities to teach enjoyable and progressive lessons and offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Many different sports including soccer, hockey, netball, rugby, cricket, rounders, dance, gymnastics and swimming (Y5) are studied.



The school has it's own purpose built gymnasium, hall, outdoor hard surfaces, sports field and a brand new state-of-the-art Astroturf . Our aim is for every pupil to learn new skills and techniques so they enjoy many different forms of physical activity. The desire to continue this into adulthood will then enable them to become active, healthy citizens of the future. As ex US President John F. Kennedy said, "Physical fitness is the basis for all other forms of excellence".



## ICT @ Park Middle School

The ICT Department has two permanent suites of computers, the main ICT suite contains 26 RM Community Connect 3 Networked workstations and the smaller suite contains 16 workstations. The school also operates a suite of 16 wireless-networked laptop PCs, which can be used in all classrooms and other locations around the school. The great majority of classrooms and specialist areas are fitted with interactive whiteboards and full multimedia presentation equipment and all staff have their own laptop computer.

Children use Windows XP and become confident with the use of software like Word, Publisher, Excel and PowerPoint though a range of other software is also in use.

During KS2, pupils use a wide range of ICT tools to support their work across other subjects. They develop their research skills and begin to question the quality of information and the audience it is aimed at. Children are taught to use the Internet and e-mail safely.



During KS3, pupils become more independent users of ICT. They become more efficient in their use of ICT resources and select appropriate software to carry out a range of increasingly more complex tasks.

## **Design and Technology at Park Middle School**

DT is an exciting area where pupils research, design and evaluate products using a range of materials, tools and processes, including CAD and CAM (Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture), Control Technology, Electronics and Smart Materials (such as Shape Memory Alloy – a metal that ‘remembers’ its original shape). These products include a flashing electronic badge (yr7), activity centre (y8), mechanical toys (y5) textile hanging wall (y5) and robots (y6).

## **Art and Design at Park Middle School**

In Art and Design pupils explore and experiment with a wide range of media including clay and plaster. They become familiar with visual elements such as line, tone and texture. Most projects use a particular artist or artistic movement such as a starting point and allows the pupils to discover art from other times or cultures and helps them to develop their own skills in visual presentation and communication. Pupils work in 2D and 3 D in projects ranging from traditional landscape and portrait to modern art such as cubism and pop art. Art at Park aims to develop pupil's awareness of the visual world and teach skills which will allow them to express their own feelings and thoughts visually through work based on both imagination and observation.

# Music and Peripatetic Music Support



Dscf0014.jpg Park Middle School has a very good reputation for its music. Throughout the year the children who join the various music groups have the opportunity to perform not only in school but also to a wider audience.

Over the past few years the many school music groups have performed in Stately homes, the Town Hall, the Victoria Hall, old peoples homes and many local schools. In addition, and perhaps the highlights, the school band has performed in Germany and Sweden.



Apart from the high standard of teaching that the children receive through their curriculum entitlement we also provide an extensive range of peripatetic music lessons. The school currently pays for peripatetic music support for brass instruments (trumpet, trombone, saxophone), woodwind (clarinet and flute), strings (bass, violin, guitar) and percussion. At present the Governors charge £30 per term for peripatetic music lessons. This represents just one-third of the actual cost with the school paying the remainder.

# Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

At Park Middle School PSHE is a whole school initiative. After consultation with pupils, school council, parents and staff the PSHE programme changed in September 2004. **All** teaching staff, including the Headteacher, is involved in the planning, preparation and presentation of the PSHE curriculum.

The PSHE programme has been divided into five areas (and five teams)

- Sex and Relationships Education
- Health
- The future/Careers
- Citizenship
- The Environment/Media/Current Affairs

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's 'Passport – A framework for personal and social development and social development' has been used to provide the basis of skills, knowledge, attitude and values for the PSHE scheme.

PSHE is concerned with the personal development of each pupil installing positive self-concept, personal skills and managing relationships with others. PSHE aims to complement and enhance what pupils experience in the rest of their school life. We see the following as vital to instil in pupils for their future roles:- self esteem, self awareness, making the best choices, taking responsibility , promoting good relationships, contributing to the community and nurturing happy confident pupils.

## Extra – Curricular Activities

The school places a high value on the involvement of children and parents in activities outside the normal school day. Such activities may take place within the school building, in the school grounds or further afield. Most activities take place immediately after school and finish between 4.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. Some activities take place before school or at lunch times.



Our all weather pitch

The following are examples of the kinds of activities that regularly take place: Choir, Recorder Club, Information and Communications Technology Club, Drama/Music Club, Gardening Club, School Band, Chess Club, Science Club, Art and Craft Club, Games Club, Visual Arts Club and of course many different sports including Netball, Girls' Football, Boys' Football, Rounders, Basketball, Badminton, Athletics, Cross Country, Tag Rugby, Cricket and Hockey. Other activities include: Parachuting, Typing, Maths Games and "Mind Games".



With regard to extra-curricular activities we are very proud of our achievements and of the number of children who participate. Over the past few years we have had a very high number of pupils representing Staffordshire, the Staffordshire Moorlands and the school in a wide variety of sports.

## **Links with The Local Business Community**

The school, in placing emphasis on first-hand experiences, encourages classes to go beyond the confines of the classroom wherever practicable. To this aim we have built up extensive links with local industry and business.

Visits to such places and visits to other places of educational interest may be funded by the Staffordshire Partnership, the school and by voluntary donations from parents. No child will be refused participation on the grounds that a donation has not been forthcoming

## School Visits and Residential Holidays

In recent years the schools has arranged residential visits to Outdoor Education Centres in Staffordshire (which are run by Staffordshire Local Education Authority) and to Germany.

The visits to the Outdoor Educational Centres are organised in Year groups for all pupils and help to widen the educational opportunities for those who take part. The Outdoor Education Centres provide good opportunities for pupils to partake in



adventurous and challenging activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, hill walking and orienteering as well as the historical and geographical aspects of the visits. These visits take place during term time and are in addition to the wide variety of educational visits.

The pupils are also given the chance to visit Germany and this offers them good opportunities to learn about the country, its people and to develop social skills. This visit enhances the positive relationships that exist between staff and pupils.

All visits are organised strictly within the terms of the school's rigorous policy and are subject to advance approval by the Governors.

# Homework

Homework is set to all teaching groups throughout the school. In Key stage 2 there is only one homework per night. In Year 5 homework will take a variety of forms and may include research, independent study, learning facts or reading. This homework should take no more than 30 minutes to complete!

The school, in recognising the important part parents can play in the educational development, actively encourages a positive parent-teacher relationship, with the expectation that this partnership will instil and promote a positive attitude to school and schoolwork. We therefore see homework as an important element in the overall curriculum and in the educational development of the child.

Parents are invited to help their child by reading to (and with) and discussing and listening to what they have to say about their day.

During the next few years your child will receive a variety of homework and may include all subject areas. Within Year 5 the emphasis will be on English, Maths and Science with some Geography and History.

Your child will be expected to complete homework including research and private study. Please discuss this with your child and help them where you can. Most of all please ensure that your child completes their homework. Their homework will be written down in their Student Planner.

In all cases homework will be related to current work in the classroom and will be at the child's level. Full details of the school's Homework Policy can be obtained on request.



# New School Uniform

Park Middle School is striving to reach even higher levels of achievement of reputation. In pursuit of these aims we have decided to formalise the school uniform. All pupils joining the school in September 2005 will be required to wear a new school uniform and the parts of this are listed below.

Pupils in year 6, 7 and 8 will still be able to wear the old school uniform up until the time that each pupil wants to replace uniform. At this point we expect that the new school uniform will be bought. By September 2006 we expect all pupils to be in the new uniform.



# School Uniform

The school policy is for full school uniform. This has been agreed following full consultation between the children, parents, governors and staff. Our school uniform is:

## Girls

Navy blue v-neck sweater

Navy blue trousers or skirt

White shirt

School tie with house stripe

White socks

Black school shoes

**Trainers are not acceptable**

## Boys

Navy blue v- neck sweater

Dark grey trousers

White shirt

School tie with house stripe

Grey socks

Black school shoes

**Trainers are not acceptable**

## Physical Education

### Girls

White top

Navy blue/black PE shorts  
(not cycle shorts)

White socks

Training shoes

Year 5 Swimming: Towel and piece swimming costume or trunks. Swimming caps are compulsory for both boys and girls. We sell them in house colours.

### Boys

Royal blue football shirt

Black Football shorts

Royal blue football socks

Training shoes

**PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING WITH THE OWNER'S NAME.**



The school carries a stock of school uniform (not PE kit). This can be purchased from the School office.

## **Jewellery**

We discourage the wearing of jewellery for two reasons, on safety grounds and on security grounds.

The only items of jewellery that are permitted are a watch and one pair of small "stud" earrings which must be removed for P.E, games lessons and swimming. We suggest ear piercing should take place at the start of long holidays.

Items with a deep religious significance will be allowed at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Please note that teachers will not be responsible for the removal and replacement of earrings nor for their safekeeping during lessons.

## **Parents in school**

Parents in school can be a great help. Some parents are able to find the time to help in school on a regular basis. There are several ways you can help in school, if you have the time.

Some teachers can make good use of parents as extra helpers in the classroom. Parents who work and can take time to speak to groups of children about their job or hobby, or join in with a class undergoing a work simulation are especially welcome. Work of this nature has, in the past, resulted in visits to the work place and has been a valuable experience for teacher, child and parent.

Parents can help by supervising a group of children on a school visit. This enables us to maintain a good ratio of adults to children, which is clearly important for safety when outside school.

At the beginning of each school year we collate a register of parents who are willing to help in the school in any way. You may, of course, prefer only to help occasionally and this will be noted on the register.

## **No Smoking Policy**

The school has been declared a non-smoking establishment. This applies to staff, visitors and all users of the premises both within and outside school hours. Parents are requested not to smoke within the school boundaries.

## **Money and Security**

Your child may, if they wish, have their own locker. The cost of this is £3.50 and this is refundable at the end of the year 8 on return of the locker key. We would ask that all personal belongings are clearly marked with their name as one school uniform

Your child should be discouraged from bringing any loose money into school. If money has been brought into school for any reason this should be in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your child's name, their class, the

amount enclosed and the purpose of the money. In this way, if the money is lost, we can easily trace it and return it.

Similarly, your child cannot bring in any expensive toys, games, precious possessions or mobile telephones. If lost it can cause so much needless trouble for all concerned.

Access to the school building for visitors and parents is through the main entrance only. All other external doors are secured during lesson times.

## **Charging Policy**

The school complies with the regulations for charging for school visits. Costs for visits are kept to a minimum and, in many cases, the school subsidises visits to museums, galleries and places of interest.

For visits made wholly or mostly in school time we ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost. No child is ever refused a place on a visit because a contribution has not been forthcoming but if insufficient funds are raised to cover the minimum costs then the visit may be cancelled.

Most of the residential visits take place out of school hours and parents are charged the actual cost of the holiday excluding spending money. Payment for such visits is arranged over several weeks or months.

Peripatetic music lessons are charged at a reduced rate by the term. These payments are normally paid termly in advance.

## **Medicines in school**

We discourage the bringing of medicines to the school; due to health and safety staff are unable to administer them.



There are, of course, exceptions to this, e.g. long-term illness or asthma. In these circumstances the medicine should be sent to the school and clearly marked with your child's name, the correct dosage and the time the medicine has to be taken. Where possible, a member of staff will supervise the self-administration of the medicine by your child. In other circumstances the Headteacher will contact you to administer the medicine.

If children are unwell before they come to school, please keep them at home. We appreciate that this may inconvenience you but a warm classroom is an ideal place for germs and 'bugs' to spread.

## Accidents and Illness

In the event of an accident or if your child is unwell at school then action will be taken. It may be that a little bit of sympathy or basic first aid may be enough, in which case the staff will deal with this. If further action is necessary a parent will be contacted either at home or work. It is for this reason that you must ensure that **emergency contact numbers and details must be accurate and up to date.**



# Statistics and Dates

SATs results 2004

Subject	No level given	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	Absent or not entered
English	5%	0	14%	59%	17.5%	0	4%
Maths	3%	0	31%	46.5%	17.5%	0	2%
Science	0	0	11%	50%	39%	0	0

## *Attendance*

Attendance at Park Middle School is good (93%) and that is due testament to the children (and parents) who come to our school. We need this figure to improve further and we are committed to raising it this year.

The unauthorised absence (1.2%) of children is where parents have failed to provide reason for their child's absence. In our case this relates to a very small minority of parents. We do ask parents to telephone the school if their child is absent, if we don't hear from them a member of staff will contact parents on the first day of absence.



# Term Dates 2005-2006



## Autumn Term

School opens	Tuesday 6 September 2005
Pupil Target Setting Day	Friday 30 September 2005
Half-term	Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October 2005
Training Day (Closed)	Friday 25 November 2005
School closes	Wednesday 21 December 2005

## Spring Term

School opens	Wednesday 4 January 2006
Training Day (Closed)	Monday 30 January 2006
Half-term	Monday 13 February - Friday 17 February 2006
Training Day (Closed)	Monday 20 March 2006
School closes	Friday 7 April 2006

## Summer Term

School opens	Monday 24 April 2006
May Day	Monday 1 May 2006
Half-term	Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June 2006
School closes	Friday 21 July 2006