

Welcome to Overdale Junior School

We are a forward thinking school and have big ambitions for our children. Our team of staff work in close partnership with parents as we recognise and greatly appreciate the efforts made in helping children learn long before they join our school.

We know that happy children are confident children and at Overdale Junior School we want to inspire them and create an enthusiasm for everything they do, both inside and outside the classroom. The environment and creative curriculum we offer encourages expression, courage and the determination to tackle a challenge.



Despite our size, we pride ourselves on strong personal relationships. We emphasise the importance of diversity, good behaviour and working together. We are a close community that values the happiness of its children and provides the ideal setting to build their confidence and prepare them for the future.

We focus on excellence, exploring the benefits of a large school embedded in its local community and enjoying strong links to the wider community.

"We value the happiness of our children and provide the ideal setting to inspire, build confidence and prepare them for the future."

We aim to make points of transition into and out of our school as seamless as possible, and work very closely with local infant and secondary schools so children are well prepared for their next steps.

I invite you to see for yourself what our school is like and to discuss our ambitions: please make an appointment to visit our school and see us in action.

Juliet Hart, Headteacher

Inspiring young minds

A creative curriculum is at the heart of teaching at Overdale Junior School. We aim to inspire our pupils and develop a love for learning, in an environment where every individual is valued for their unique contribution. We strive to provide pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to become critical thinkers, ready to embrace the challenges they will face throughout their lives.

We work with the local community and businesses to enrich the children's learning experience by putting it into real life context. For example, our 'Inventions' theme was supported by a Leicester-based engineering company who worked on aeronautics with children in Year4 and the Leicestershire & Rutland Co-operative has been involved with our 'Food Routes' course, providing opportunities for pupils to see behind the scenes at a farm and a supermarket to learn about the food supply chain.

Our school benefits from an exceptional outdoor environment, including a stream and woodland and we have introduced Forest School sessions for every pupil to maximise our use of the varied habitats within our school's grounds. The aim of these sessions is to enthuse and encourage individuals through positive outdoor experiences, enabling them to develop personal and social skills, motivation, self confidence and self esteem.

"We aim to inspire our children to develop intellectually, physically and creatively, and value every individual for their unique"

We provide a safe, nurturing environment and strive to inspire children to develop intellectually, physically and creatively by ensuring that all pupils have equal access to stimulating teaching and learning opportunities.

Through 'Quality First Teaching' we develop skills across the curriculum, build secure foundations and make learning an active, enjoyable, challenging and exciting experience.



Part of the community

Overdale Junior School is situated on the southern edge of the city of Leicester in the mainly residential area of Knighton and has been at the heart of the community since it opened in 1956.

As a multi-cultural school in Leicester, we celebrate our diversity and promote strong links between school, home and the wider community.



We have a strong commitment to the community and our pupils are encouraged to learn about the world around them and to play an active role in society through involvement with local and national projects.

We promote good behaviour, both inside and outside the classroom, and respect for others, emphasising the importance of strong relationships and working together.

Our school campus is shared with Overdale Infant School, with which there is increasingly close liaison, and we have developed creative partnerships with local senior schools to utilise their facilities and expertise and introduce our pupils to the schools to which they are likely to transfer in the future. As a part of the OAK Academy Trust, we also have strong links with Woodland Grange (primary), Brookside (primary) and Manor High School (secondary).

"Cultural links are used well to help pupils learn more about the lives of others in their community and further afield, which helps support their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development."
Ofsted, 2013

Strong leadership & governance

Overdale Junior School benefits from a strong senior leadership team, led by Headteacher Juliet Hart, and a supportive governing body committed to ensuring the long term success of the school.

Research shows that children do better when their parents and carers are actively involved in their education. We value this close partnership and parents have a strong voice within the school through our Parents' Forum.



"Children thrive when their parents are actively involved in their education: parents participate in many ways in the daily life of our school and we value this close partnership."

The Parents' Forum is open to all parents and meets regularly to discuss wide ranging issues of importance to parents, their children and the school. Staff and representatives from the governing body are present at meetings to facilitate feedback to the senior leadership team on issues and suggestions raised by the Forum.

The School Council comprises elected members from every class, supported by two staff members, and its sole aim is to help make the school a great place for everyone. School Council meets regularly to talk about subjects of importance to pupils and has been instrumental in introducing anti-bullying measures, applying for grants for projects and organising fundraising events for charities nominated by the pupils themselves.

A day in the life

The school day begins at 8.55am when all children should be in the main school playground ready for the whistle: they then line up with their class and file into school, led by their teacher, ready for registration.

Each year group has three or four parallel, mixed ability classes and children are taught within their class for most subjects. The curriculum themes throughout the year place high emphasis on core skills and connections in learning, while enrichment activities such as Forest School and Food Routes provide creative opportunities for developing new and important life skills. Every child will experience a range of music too. Year 3 pupils learn to play the recorder; Year 4 learn to play a brass instrument; Year 5 learn to play the tabla and Year 6 learn to play samba drums. There are also opportunities to join choirs and learn other instruments too.

There is ample time during the day for children to play and socialise with their friends - pupils are expected to play outside in all but the very worst weather. At lunchtime, from 12.15 - 1.25pm, children play outside before and after they eat, and there are also numerous clubs and activities available to them during this time, including art club and a range of sports.

Around 2 hours a week is allocated to PE for each class during the summer and early autumn terms, though it is less during the very cold winter months. A wide range of outdoor and indoor sports and activities are enjoyed throughout the year.

Assemblies are held throughout the week - these may be for lower and upper school; individual classes; for families to attend; or whole school assemblies, including the weekly singing assembly where the children enjoy music and singing together.

Good behaviour, attitudes and work are recognised on an individual or whole class basis through the school's reward scheme. Individuals will earn Dojo points which go towards their house team totals.

The school day ends at 3.20pm, when the children are led back to the main playground by their teachers – this gives parents an opportunity to speak to their child's teacher should they wish to do so.

"My child actively enjoys going to school and particularly looks forward to Food Routes, Forest School and the other creative activities available to all pupils"

Starting at Overdale Junior School

When children join the school, at the beginning of Year 3 they are allocated a trained 'Buddy' from Year 5 who makes contact with the younger child and checks they are settling in to their new school. Our 'Buddy' system establishes lasting relationships between older and younger children and promotes a caring, harmonious environment within the school.

Wear our uniform with pride

All pupils are expected to wear school uniform which is available from Gascoigne clothing.

www.gascoigneclothing.com/schools-login



Login – Overdale Password – polo1617

A coat and sturdy dark coloured footwear are essential as the children spend a good deal of time outside during the school day.

Uniform requirements for girls

Skirt, pinafore or trousers, black/navy blue
Blouse or polo shirt, white/pale blue
Cardigan or fleece, royal blue
Dress, blue & white checked (summer)
Tights, black/navy blue
Socks, black/navy blue/white
Sturdy, dark coloured shoes
Coat

PE kit

Shorts, black
T-shirt, white
Plimsoles for inside
Trainers for outside
Tracksuit for outside

Uniform requirements for boys

Trousers, black/navy blue
Shirt or polo shirt, white/pale blue
Sweatshirt or fleece, royal blue
Sturdy, dark coloured shoes
Coat

PE kit

Shorts, black
T-shirt, white
Plimsoles for inside
Trainers for outside
Tracksuit for outside

Excellent facilities



Overdale Junior School has excellent facilities which enhance the learning experience of our pupils.

We have 15 classrooms available for teaching, all with interactive whiteboards, 2 class sets of laptops across the school creating a mobile computing system and an extremely well stocked library.

We have a fully fitted teaching kitchen which is used for a range of activities including cooking and clubs and we also have our own kiln.

Our spacious assembly hall is used for concerts, meetings and clubs, gymnastics and other PE activities. We have a dining hall, with kitchen, housed in a separate building and school dinners are prepared freshly on the premises every day.

Outside there are extensive grounds around the school, which include two hard surface playgrounds with play equipment, a large field used for sports and at lunchtime, and a wooded area with a stream used for Forest School. Indeed, the range of habitats within the school campus has led to us joining the Forest School project.



As a Healthy School we encourage our pupils to walk, scoot or cycle to school

and provide a large covered shelter for them to lock their bikes and scooters in.

Keeping you informed

We understand how important it is for people to know what is happening at their child's school, so we communicate regularly with parents through our monthly newsletter and our website at www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk.

The school newsletter is sent home *via* the children's book bags, but each issue is also available to download from the website along with copies of other important letters to parents.

The website is updated frequently and provides the most up to date information on school news and events.

There is also a wealth of information about all aspects of school life.



Check out:

Twitter: we have a number of Twitter accounts to follow. Start with [@ojsinfo](#)

This Month @ OJS for a full list of events taking place in school.

School News and **Letters to Parents** for the latest news and copies of letters sent home to parents available to download.

About the School for details of how to apply for a place at the school; the latest Ofsted inspection report and performance data; details of how the school spends its Pupil Premium; downloadable versions of school policies; and lists of school staff and governors.

Parents' & Pupils' Information for useful information on day to day matters, such as term dates; curriculum and subject details; school dinners; uniform requirements; our Parents' Forum; School Council; clubs and activities.

Useful Links and Resources to help you support your child's learning.