 Isaac Newton Academy

 PRIMARY PROSPECTUS
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WELCOME
from the Interim Principal, Head of Primary and Chair of Governors

Isaac Newton Academy is a popular and successful school for local children in the heart of Ilford. The secondary phase opened in September 2012 and two years later we welcomed our first primary pupils into reception. The primary school will grow a year group at a time, with 90 children in each cohort. Children who attend Isaac Newton Academy Primary automatically qualify for a place at the secondary school, meaning that they benefit from an all-through education from 4–18, with smooth transitions between key stages and strong relationships forged over 14 years.

In October 2018 Isaac Newton Academy was rated ‘outstanding’ in all areas by OFSTED, including Early Years provision.

We have exceptionally high expectations of all our pupils. We aim to provide an outstanding education that gives every child the choice at 18 of progressing to a top university. The foundations for that achievement are laid at primary school.

We place mathematics and literacy at the heart of our primary curriculum and we provide outstanding teaching and support so that every child makes excellent progress.

We look forward to meeting you and to working with you to create a truly great school.

Jo Spencer
Interim Principal

Tam Broadway
Head of Primary

Gerard Griffin
Chair of Governors
Isaac Newton Academy Primary is part of the ARK Schools network.

ARK Schools is an education charity and leading academy operator. Our academies include primary and secondary schools in London, Birmingham and on the south coast. Our aim is to create outstanding schools with high expectations for every child which give every pupil the opportunity at 18 to go to university or pursue the career of their choice.

Our work to achieve that mission starts on the day a child joins reception.

ARK schools prioritise six key principles:

• **High expectations**
• **Excellent teaching**
• **Exemplary behaviour**
• **Depth before breadth**
• **More time for learning**
• **Knowing every child.**
VISION AND VALUES

Our aim is to equip every student with the knowledge, learning power and character needed for success at school, university and beyond.

• We set clear, ambitious goals, and rigorously monitor our progress in achieving them.
• We focus on core academic subjects, while stimulating a wide range of interests.
• We aim to instil knowledge, understanding, and a desire to learn.
• We all commit to making Isaac Newton Academy a vibrant learning community.

Our ambition is that every Isaac Newton pupil has a rich, rewarding and happy primary experience, learning the skills that will enable them to be successful in secondary school and beyond.

Our values
Our school is characterised by our values of mutual respect, personal discipline, and our commitment to do whatever it takes to excel.

Mutual respect
We honour each other’s views, interests and backgrounds. We respect the authority of adults and we nurture and develop the needs and interests of all our children.

Personal discipline
Isaac Newton Academy sets high standards for behaviour as well as study. Teachers expect good work and excellent behaviour. Pupils, in turn, can expect inspirational teaching every day.

Our ambition is that every Isaac Newton pupil has a rich, rewarding and happy primary experience.
High expectations
We are explicit about our high expectations for every child from day one. With the right support and teaching every child is capable of going on to university and enjoying a rewarding career.

Excellent teaching
We want every lesson to be stimulating and rewarding for every child. We work hard to recruit, train and support exceptional teachers.

Exemplary behaviour
We are a warm, happy, inclusive school. We treat each other with courtesy and respect. We praise and reward excellent behaviour, effort and achievement.

Depth before breadth
A secure foundation in English and mathematics is essential for the whole curriculum. We aim to ensure that every child is proficient and confident in these subjects as early as possible.

More time for learning
Our school day starts at 8:45am and finishes at 3:45pm (with an earlier finish at 3pm on Tuesdays). That gives us time to provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that meets the needs of every pupil. Children can enjoy our breakfast club from 7:45am and many stay for after school clubs and activities.

Knowing every child
Good relationships reinforce a culture of excellent behaviour and commitment to learning. We prioritise getting to know our pupils and their families well so that every child is well supported to make excellent progress.
OUR CURRICULUM

Depth before breadth
Our first priority is to build the foundation in literacy and numeracy that will provide the gateway to all other learning.

English
In English we focus on speaking and listening, reading and writing using the Read Write Inc. reading programme which is based on “synthetic phonics”. This teaches children which combinations of letters make the different sounds in English, how to blend these to make words and how to decode words. Children have daily English and phonics lessons from reception onwards and frequent opportunities to read with an adult. We provide guidance for parents and links to useful materials to help your child at home.

Mathematics
ARK academies specialise in mathematics and we invest to attract and train the best teachers. Children have daily maths lessons, using the ARK Schools’ Mathematics Mastery programme. This builds gradual mastery of the essential knowledge and skills of mathematics, using objects and pictures to understand concepts, before numbers and symbols. Children understand what they are doing rather than simply repeating routines. The programme reflects the curriculum of the world’s highest performing countries for mathematics and its outcomes have been highly praised by Ofsted.

Children take part in lots of maths investigations, workshops, activities and events during the year.

Our first priority is to build the foundation in literacy and numeracy that will provide the gateway to all other learning.
The primary curriculum is divided into three phases: Foundation Stage (reception), Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (years 3–6).

The Foundation Stage

In reception children develop learning skills such as listening, speaking, concentrating, persistence and learning to work and cooperate with others. There are three “prime” and four “specific” areas of learning in the national curriculum.

Prime areas:
• Communication and language
• Physical development
• Personal, social, and emotional development

Specific areas:
• Literacy
• Mathematics
• Understanding the world
• Expressive arts and design

Children have two literacy lessons (phonics and English) and two mathematics lessons each day and regular opportunities to read to an adult. Children develop their characteristics and styles of learning through playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically. Learning in our outdoor space is also part of the Foundation Stage. Children achieve many early learning goals through first-hand experience and structured play linked to national curriculum areas.

Assessment and Progress

Each autumn term, we conduct a baseline assessment for every child to establish where they are in their learning and development and to inform future planning. We share this with parents. We record children’s experiences and attainment and assess their strengths and learning needs throughout the year to build an accurate profile of each child’s development.
Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)
Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6)

The core curriculum at Key Stages 1 and 2 comprises:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science

Children also study these foundation subjects:

- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Design Technology (DT)
- Computing
- Languages (MFL)
- Music
- Physical Education (PE)
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Religious Education (RE)

Personal, Social and Health Education

Children work with their teachers to learn to articulate their feelings and the causes of their emotions and to develop coping strategies for certain feelings. They learn to set themselves goals and to make good choices about their health and well-being. They can identify and respect differences and similarities between people, and explain how family and friends care for one another.

Religious Education

We provide non-denominational Religious Education for all children including learning about the different religions observed by their classmates. In assembly we emphasise how our values relate to our school and the world around us. Assemblies are non-denominational and we commemorate the major festivals observed by the families of our pupils.
Isaac Newton Academy Primary is an inclusive school, committed to the success of every pupil. In the foundation stage we screen every child for language and communication abilities and needs. We also screen for dyslexia in year 1. Throughout school we keep careful track of pupils as individuals, regularly reassess each child’s learning progress and review individual targets. If children have difficulty we intervene quickly and provide relevant support.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
The academy follows the Government’s “Revised Code of Practice” to identify, assess and support pupils with special educational needs. We provide tailored support through Individual Education Plans. Support may be given in a class, a small group or through withdrawal classes by a skilled team of teachers and learning assistants.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)
Pupils for whom English is an additional language benefit from our emphasis on the core curriculum, gaining extra support until they reach the expected achievement for their age in English. Through careful assessment and a combination of small learning groups, our pupils have full access to the learning opportunities provided by the school.

Stretching High Attainers
At Isaac Newton Academy we ensure that all our pupils are appropriately challenged and supported. Careful assessment allows us to identify those children who need additional stretch and extension because they are already achieving at high levels. They are introduced to older role models, accelerated in their learning by working, at times, in groups with others who are at a similar level and given enrichment opportunities to broaden their minds and deepen their skills and knowledge.
A HAPPY, HEALTHY SCHOOL

Isaac Newton is a safe, caring school where pupils are happy in each other’s company.

Parents are our most important partners and we ensure that we know our pupils’ parents and families well (starting with a home visit to all our pupils before they join us). Each family discusses and signs our home school agreement as we each commit to work in partnership to help every pupil get the best out of life at school.

Lunch and nutrition
Our pupils enjoy a healthy, freshly-cooked lunch from our on-site kitchen each day and healthy snacks at break times. We offer vegetarian, halal and non-halal choices. It is not permitted to bring any food or drink onto the school site (except water).

Attendance and punctuality
Children are expected to attend school on time and every day. If a child is unwell we ask that parents inform the school immediately and we will provide the child with support and catch up material on their return.

Home Learning
Home Learning extends pupils’ independence and self-discipline. Primary pupils have regular reading and maths practice to do at home.

Uniform
We are proud of our smart school uniform. We encourage adults and children to be proud and aware of their appearance and presentation at school.
Isaac Newton Academy Primary has brand new teaching accommodation comprising three classrooms for each year group, a specialist music classroom, a library, a specialist science/cooking classroom, group rooms for each year, a roof top ball court, a garden, outdoor play areas, and outdoor learning areas for reception and year 1 classes. There is a state of the art hall/performance space and dining room.

The facilities allow us to teach a curriculum fit for the 21st century in inspiring surroundings.
Isaac Newton Academy Primary is a non-selective, mixed, non-denominational primary school. We admit 90 reception pupils each year in three forms of entry. Applications must be made on Redbridge Council’s Common Application Form. You can find full details of how to apply on the council’s primary admissions pages on its website (www.redbridge.gov.uk) or you can apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk.

If the academy is oversubscribed, priority is first given to students with a statement of special educational needs where the academy is named on the statement. The remaining places are offered in the following order of priority:

- “Looked after” or previously looked after children.
- Children of staff at the academy, where the staff member is filling a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage as approved by ARK Schools. (This priority is limited to one place in each form of entry in any year.)
- Children who, at the time of the admission, have a sibling, resident at the same address, who attends the academy.
- Children of staff at the academy where the parent has been employed in the academy for two or more years at the time the application is made. (Limited to one place in each form of entry in any year.)
- Children who live closest to the academy. The Local Authority measures distance on behalf of Ark Schools. London Borough of Redbridge use a Geographical Information System to calculate shortest walking distance from the child’s home to the main entrance of the school using public roads and recognised footpaths.

The academy will keep a waiting list which is used to fill casual vacancies occurring if students leave during the year or withdraw from a place that has been offered.