



The
Westminster
School

Safe, happy and learning





Welcome

Welcome to The Westminster School. If you are a parent considering special education for your child then this is an excellent place to start.

We strongly believe that children with special needs are entitled to the best possible education. We encourage as much parental involvement as possible, so your child can enjoy every happiness and success at our school.

Pupils who feel safe and happy learn. Learning leads to success. This ensures all pupils experience happiness and success throughout their time at The Westminster School.

We believe that our pupils have an individual, unique, mix of educational needs, therefore they **should have a personalised education.**

The Westminster School is led by an excellent team of governors, including parent governors, who make an invaluable contribution to the running of our school.

Our admissions policy requires that prospective parents arrange visits to the school through Sandwell Local Authority who can be contacted on 0121 569 8207.

Our mission statement
"Safe, Happy and Learning"
is at the heart of everything we do.

We achieve this through:

- ★ Feeling safe and happy
- ★ Building confidence
- ★ Growing independence
- ★ Enjoying learning
- ★ Celebrating progress
- ★ Helping to "make friends"
- ★ Fostering "feeling good"



Growing Educationally

When your son or daughter joins The Westminster School, a comprehensive baseline assessment will be carried out. This enables us to place your child within the most suitable learning environment, tailor individual educational plans to challenge and set them challenging but achievable personal targets.

In both our Primary and Secondary Departments, pupils are taught by staff who are able to provide specialist teaching strategies including Communication In Print and Makaton. The Speech and Language Therapy service is also an integral part of the school providing programmes for identified pupils.

We believe that strong links between home and school are very important for a child's development, so we encourage as much parental involvement as possible. Where appropriate pupils are given home school diaries to ensure regular quality contact.

Our curriculum has been designed to fully meet the needs of our pupils both academically and socially. It is geared towards providing them with interesting learning opportunities and ensures that all our pupils are included in the daily activities of the school.

Celebrating Progress

Celebrating your child's achievements and successes is an integral part of the education here at The Westminster School.

We know through experience that children who are regularly rewarded attain much higher standards and make consistent progress in their education. Your child's progress and achievements will be reported to you regularly, which will enable you to track their progress and witness their milestones.

In addition to encouraging pupils in every aspect of their personal growth and academic achievement, we also look to reward all types of positive behaviour.

Slouth

Slouth is an online behaviour tracking system which enables staff, pupils and parents to identify any behaviour trends and interventions that may be necessary. The system also presents the school with appropriate data in order to reward pupils appropriately and implement strategies for individual pupils to improve their behaviour.

Whilst we recognise that each of our pupils has individual and special educational needs, we firmly adhere to the government's guidelines and all our children are assessed through tasks, modules or Qualifications at the end of each key stage at Year 6, Year 9, Year 11 and Year 14.

Celebrating your child's progress will also play a vital role in building their confidence which, in turn, reaps dividends in both their home and school life. The Westminster School supports all children in moving towards an independent, successful and enjoyable adult life.

Vivo

Vivo is a web-based reward system that the school uses in order to maintain high standards of behaviour, engagement, effort and social well-being. The system enables pupils to collect 'Vivo Miles' which equates to money (1 mile = 1p). The pupils can save their miles to buy items from the online shop. Parents and Carers have their own log-in details so that they can track their child's progress and monitor what their child has been rewarded for.

Building Confidence

When your child comes to The Westminster School, we will work on improving their personal confidence from the outset. We believe that confidence plays a key part in a successful education, and confident children with a positive outlook grow into happy, successful, well-adjusted young people.

We encourage our pupils' personal development to flourish in a supportive and stimulating learning environment. We want them to feel safe, enjoy coming to school and to participate in interesting and exciting activities. We also ensure that there is a good range of learning opportunities including educational visits, outdoor learning, for example Forest Schools and residential activities.

As we share our campus with St Michael's C E High School and Whiteheath Education Centre your child will have the added benefit of being able to learn and socialise with these pupils, working together in areas such as PE, after school clubs and in lessons as appropriate.

Our Curriculum

We place equal importance on academic success and personal growth. Ours is a system which is underpinned by the National Curriculum. Due to the sometimes complex and individual needs of our pupils, we offer high levels of support and guidance and with planned opportunities for social development.

We study:

English (speaking and listening, reading, writing and spelling),
Mathematics,
Science, ICT/Computing Design and Technology, History, Geography, Art,
Music, P.E. and R.E.

In Years 10-14 our pupils attend college where they have the opportunity to study for a range of vocational qualifications including:

Hair and Beauty, Child Development, Small Animal Care and Catering.

We place great emphasis on Independence and Life Skills and foster a love of learning through a diverse approach to teaching and learning.



Building on our Previous best

We constantly monitor our systems and teaching practices to ensure we are meeting the needs of our pupils.

Carefully analysed assessment data gives our Governing Body a clear idea of the effectiveness of the school and how it might still be further improved.

This analysis feeds our staff development to ensure that we continually adopt and respond to pupil needs and changing educational theories and demands.

Medical Matters

If your child has specific needs you can rest assured that they are in safe hands.

Under the guidance of our Learning Support Team Leader a high proportion of our Support Staff have regularly updated First Aid Training. If your child needs daily or emergency medication/ treatment they are trained to administer it. This is overseen by a Community Children's Nurse. Where appropriate, individual care plans are written for pupils.

a safe, happy and learning community

Our school mission statement of 'Safe, Happy and Learning' is based on a personalised approach towards our pupils' development and we know that being confident and doing well in school go hand-in-hand with feeling happy.

We offer a range of activities and opportunities within both the curriculum and the school calendar which aim to stimulate, excite and engage your child and foster good feelings. Within our termly newsletters you will find information about a variety of different activities including charity events, outdoor learning experiences (Forest Schools, end of term celebrations, Presentation Evenings, assemblies and many outings like residential experiences, visits to promote life skills, volunteering in the local community.

Making friends

We know that Friendship is pivotal to your child's happiness at school. As your child's confidence grows we will take every opportunity to encourage them to make happy, long-lasting friendships.

All children and young people benefit from healthy relationships with their peers. These bonds give them an important sense of belonging and help them to see themselves more clearly and how they fit in with the world. We help forge friendships with team building exercises, group learning and sports lessons. We understand that this may be more challenging for some, so we will work on individual programmes to support social understanding, language and engagement.

Our recreational spaces, including a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), purpose build gym, outdoor learning spaces, Drama Studio and Music Room, have been designed to encourage pupil's natural enthusiasm to take part in a wide range of activities and provide opportunities to make new friends, have fun, develop their motor skills and generally enjoy school life.

Happiness and success

Safe, Happy and Learning is more than a mission statement at our school. We've learned that it's what the parents of our pupils want most. We take regular opportunities to learn what our parents want for their children.

Our curriculum, teaching practices, classrooms, outside learning and recreational spaces have been designed and developed to reflect those wishes.

Our staff also know that they are critical in creating the culture of Safe, Happy and Learning.

Being on a campus site with St Michael's C E High School and Whiteheath Education Centre has given us additional opportunities for continued development and the promotion of inclusion and ensuring your child's education here is just as special as it needs to be.

We want your child to enjoy their education at The Westminster School and feel valued and respected. We will work with you throughout their time here, encouraging and challenging your child so that they fully achieve their true potential, and ensuring they get the very best education and are ready for adult life.

Recent comments include:

- ★ A place where their child will be happy
- ★ A place where their child will experience success
- and -
- ★ A place where they will be safe.





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