



Smithy Street Prospectus

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Smithy Street School

We hope that you and your child/children have a happy time whilst you are with us. We will do everything we can to make this a rewarding and enriching experience.

We have an open-door policy, and you are most welcome to come and talk to us if you have any concerns about your child's progress, or have anything that we can celebrate together. Just let us know what you need to speak to us about, or whatever concerns you may have, and we will be pleased to work together to support your child's education.

We are very happy that you have joined Smithy Street School, and welcome the contribution you are going to make to our whole school community.

Edith Philipsen



Headteacher - Edith Philipsen

Our Vision

Smithy Street School is our school.... and in our school every child is important.

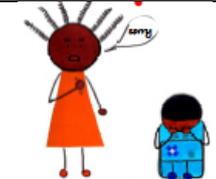
At Smithy Street you will:

- Become a positive, creative thinker and resourceful problem solver.
- See yourself as a global citizen with a responsibility to help create a better future for yourself and others.
- Be adaptable and have the skills to be a successful life-long learner in an ever changing world.
- Be confident and able to challenge yourself to be the best that you can be.
- Understand your own emotions and show kindness, empathy and tolerance towards others.
- Be aware of your own cultural heritage and respect those of others.
- Belong to a caring community where everyone enjoys learning together and celebrating success.

Smithy Street; not just a school...but a learning community.

Our Values

At Smithy Street School we teach children our Smithy Street values:

Respect		Responsibility	
Collaboration		Honesty	
Positivity		Care	

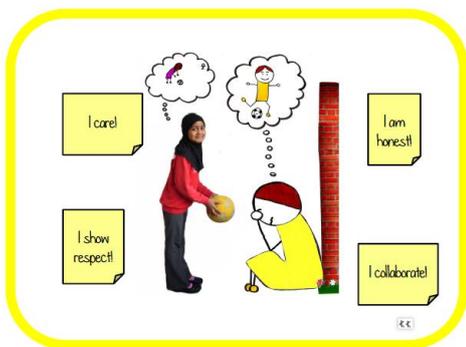
Our values form the foundation of our Smithy Street Rules



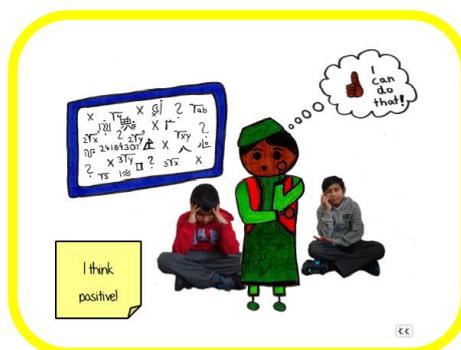
About Us...

“People at Smithy Street are kind and friendly.”

“I’m glad my child had the chance to come here.”



“Smithy Street feels like a successful school.”



Child Protection and Safeguarding

Smithy Street Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. All our staff and adults working with children have been subject to a CRB check, and have been trained in dealing with child protection issues if they arise.

Equal Opportunities

Everyone at Smithy Street has the right to:

- Learn, work and achieve to the best of their ability, without fear of prejudice and free from discrimination.
- Develop self-confidence, to be equally respected and valued, and to be fairly and justly treated as members of the school community.

We will not tolerate behaviour that discriminates against an individual or group, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion/ belief or (dis)ability.

Inclusion

We aim to be as inclusive as possible and always try to remove any barriers to learning which may impact on learning and progress of children of all abilities. We provide appropriate activities, challenges and support for all children, including those with special educational or physical/ medical needs, children who have an additional language, children who are new to the country and who may speak no, or little English, as well as for children who are more able, or who have a special talent. This could include extra, specialised support or care, in or outside of the class, either for a short while, or for a sustained period of time. It could also include additional opportunities to attend special workshops and challenges, including art, music, drama and sports.



Medical needs, accidents and health issues

Children who come to Smithy Street may have a medical condition, or chronic illness, ranging from minor to more complex needs. This may include asthma, epilepsy, eczema, as well as children with mobility issues. We have trained staff to look after children with medical needs, and are committed to providing additional training when necessary, responding to children's needs as appropriate. If your child needs to have access to medicines during the school day, please see our Inclusion co-ordinator to discuss his or her needs. Children who are identified as needing medical support will be monitored and supported by a health care plan.

If a child becomes ill, or has an accident during the day, he or she will be seen by an appropriately trained First Aider. We will then contact parents/ carers, explain what has happened, and may ask you to collect your child.

Smithy Street School has achieved and maintained its Healthy Schools status since 2005. We are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles, and have a regular curriculum focus on health related issues. We encourage healthy eating through our 'Packed Lunch' policy, and our healthy breakfast club.

We have a 'Sex and Relationship' policy, and a scheme of work approved by parents, in order to deliver this statutory part of the curriculum.

We place a high importance on sports and exercise, and have specialist sports coaches who teach P.E., a trained yoga teacher, a trained dance teacher, as well as a number of sports related breakfast, lunchtime and after-school clubs.

History

Smithy Street Primary School first opened its doors in 1991, with Barbara O'Carroll as Headteacher. Over the years we grew steadily and now have around 430 pupils, aged between 3 and 11 years. In 2007 The Local Authority decided that we will gradually move from being a 1.5 form entry (45 places per year group) to a 2 form entry (60 places per year group). As from September 2013 all year groups (Rec-Yr 6) will have 60 places, divided into two classes; we have 24 full time places and 12 part time in the Nursery.

Staffing

We are a 2 form entry, which means we have 2 classes per year group, with a class teacher in each. We also employ additional teachers for teachers' planning, assessment and preparation time (PPA), Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), PE, Music, Intervention and Special Educational Needs. Classes in the Foundation Stage all have a Teaching Assistant and a Nursery Nurse. All KS1 and KS2 classes have a Teaching Assistant each morning; in the afternoon Teaching Assistants either support classes or deliver small group interventions. In addition we have several Learning Support Assistants who work solely with children with Special Educational Needs, as well as a Learning Mentor, who helps children overcome barriers to learning.

Holiday dates

These can be found on our website: www.smithystreet.org.uk.

School times

Our door opens at 8.50, and parents/carers and children may make their way to the classrooms. Children should not be left unattended until the teachers arrive.

8.00 am - Breakfast club

9.00 am - Start of school day

10:25- 10:45 - Assembly

10.45- 11.00 am - Morning break

12.15 or 12.30 pm - Lunch

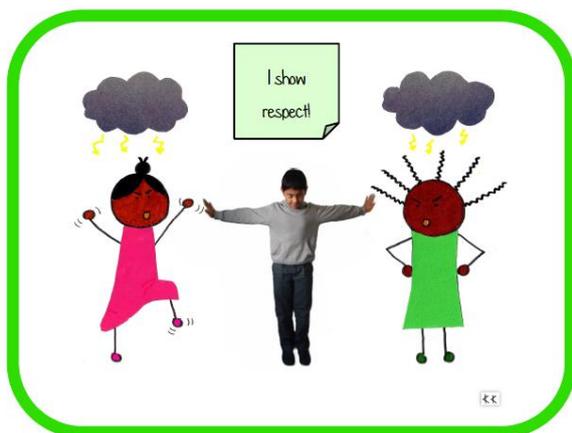
1.15 or 1.30 pm - Start of afternoon

2.55pm - 3:10pm - KS1 afternoon break

3.30 pm - End of school day

3.30 to 4.30 pm - After- school clubs

Children in Year 6 may go home alone, provided they have written permission from their parents/ carers. Younger children should be collected by adults or older children (over 11) only.



"My children like going to school because they feel safe and enjoy it. The staff lead and handle the children well!"

Curriculum enrichment

Children at Smithy Street have many opportunities to experience additional activities and events. In addition to our regular curriculum, we celebrate and acknowledge traditions, religious festivals and events from a range of different cultures, nationalities and religions. Examples include: Eid, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, Diwali, Saint Nicholas Day, Black History Month, International Evening and the European Day of Languages.

We have regular 'special' events and weeks. Recent examples include: International Evening, Cycling Training, Rollapalooza Cycling, Book Week, Roald Dahl Dress-up Day, Sports Day, Red Nose Day, Anti-bullying week, Road Safety week, Circus Day, Race Awareness Workshops, Bike It, Black History Month, Art Week, , and Pantomime. Our children also get opportunities to work with professional artists, dancers, musicians, poets and authors, for example when working with actors from the 'Young Shakespeare Company.' They visit London theatres and take part in local sports partnership events.

Our Year 6 children perform in the annual Year 6 Leavers' play, and there are regular other types of performances for children of all ages.

We have a very rich programme of breakfast, lunchtime and after school clubs, with an emphasis on sports and healthy lifestyles/ and performing arts.

Our children get many opportunities to go on educational visits, and our Year 6 children take part in a week-long stay at Gorsefield, a residential centre, in Essex. In 2013 Yr 5 will also take part in a two day activity based residential.

Curriculum

At Smithy Street Primary School we deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, through the delivery of the National Curriculum, the Early Year Foundation Stage Curriculum, and Religious Education.

We place a high importance on teaching our children 'Learning to Learn' skills, which enable them to become 'lifelong' learners. These skills include key thinking skills such as enquiry, reasoning, creative thinking, information processing, and evaluation. They underpin all of our teaching and learning.

We also recognise the importance of teaching children about the social and emotional aspects of learning. This includes self-awareness, managing feelings, motivation, empathy, social skills and communication.

Children learn better when their learning is in real life contexts. We will also try to make links between subjects and real life, and give children many opportunities to learn outside of the classroom and from a range of visitors and other adults.

During your child's stay at Smithy Street he/she will study:

-Core subjects: literacy, mathematics, science, ICT, and R.E. Literacy is planned for developing units from the Power of Reading project (CLPE).

-Foundation subjects: history, geography, art, music, dance, P.E., design and technology, PSHE, citizenship and MFL. The majority of these subjects are taught through cross curricular topics from the International Primary Curriculum (IPC).



Assessment

Throughout his or her stay at Smithy Street, your child's progress will be monitored continually. At the end of the Foundation Stage, your child's achievements will be assessed using the Early Learning Goals. In all other classes your child's progress and achievement will be assessed using the statutory or optional SATs.

Parents/carers are invited to twice-yearly interviews, where progress and targets are discussed. In addition, there are termly review meetings for children with identified additional needs, including S.E.N needs. However, if there are any concerns or questions, parents/carers can always speak to the class teacher informally, or make an additional appointment.

Behaviour

At Smithy Street we aim to ensure that our school environment and the relationships between children, staff and parents reflect a friendly, respectful, safe and positive ethos. When children behave well, staff will praise and encourage them. They may be rewarded with a Smithy Street Values certificate. Every class revisits the Smithy Street rules at the start of the year; they are discussed and agreed by all children. If there is an issue with behaviour, staff will discuss the problem with children and encourage children to discuss it with each other, so that they are actively involved in improving their behaviour. The ultimate aim is self-discipline for all.

At Smithy Street, we regard bullying and racist behaviour as extremely serious. We always take firm action against it, and we encourage and support children to stand up against bullying and racist behaviour, both for themselves and for others.

If unacceptable behaviour persists, we will invite parents/ carers to work with their child and the teachers to discuss and implement strategies for improvement.

Through our PSHE curriculum, children learn about self-awareness, managing feelings, motivation, empathy, social skills and communication, all of which have a positive impact on children's behaviour, and understanding of others.



“Discipline and behaviour are very good.”

Parental/Carer involvement

We believe that children learn best when parents/carers and teachers work together, and we want to work in a partnership. We consult parents on a range of issues, and like to keep them informed about current issues through our parents/carers notice board, newsletters and website.

We value parental/carers contributions, and strongly believe that parents/carers, as children’s first educators, are crucial to success and achievement. We have many opportunities for parents/carers to become involved, including regular workshops on a wide range of issues, such as behaviour management, health related issues, and supporting children at home with their homework.

Parents/carers are invited to become volunteers, some help out in class, and go on trips. We have a toy-library, a ‘Friday Coffee Morning’ group, a Somalian family language group, and an exercise class. In addition, we provide regular opportunities for adult learning, including Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities (SFSC) and ICT classes.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality are crucial to children’s learning and achievement at school. Unless a child is ill, or has a medical appointment that cannot be made after school, they must be in school. Parents/carers are requested to telephone the school on the first instance of absence. We will follow all absences and always phone on the 1st day a child is away, if no reason has been received. Family holidays in term-time or extended leave will not normally be approved, and parents/carers are expected to organise family holidays and visits during school holiday periods. Children will be taken off the register, and face a strong possibility of losing their place in the school permanently.

We liaise regularly with our Attendance Welfare Officer in order to improve and maintain our attendance rates.



“There are positive relationships between staff, children and parents.”

Admissions Criteria and Induction

We admit children using the admission criteria and guidelines issued by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The priorities are as follows:

- Children with a statement of special educational needs
- Children with very strong social or medical needs
- Children who have brothers or sisters already at the school in distance order
- Children who live in the Stepney catchment area
- Children who live nearest to the school by the shortest walking route (this may change in the near future)

You may place your child's name on the waiting list after their 2nd birthday. Children are offered places in the Nursery in the term of their 4th birthday. Children who receive a place in the Nursery are not automatically guaranteed a place in Reception, and will need to apply to the Local Authority, who co-ordinate admissions centrally, for a Reception place.

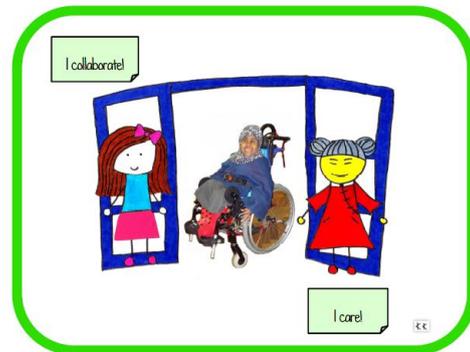
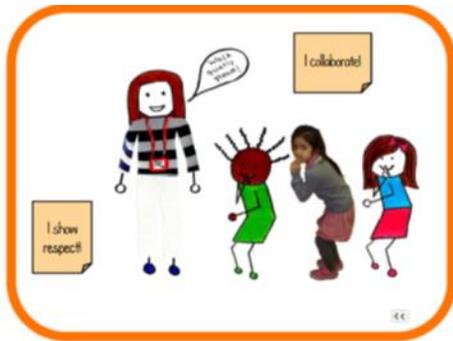
We have an induction programme for parents/carers of children in Nursery and Reception. Children who start at Smithy Street during term time are invited, alongside their parents/carers, for an interview with our Learning Mentor, and their needs and family circumstances are discussed. They will then be introduced to the class teacher and be given a start date.

Complaints Procedure

We hope all parents/carers and their children will enjoy being part of our school community. Parents /carers are encouraged to discuss any worries they have about their child with the class teacher or Headteacher. We are very willing to spend time to resolve any concerns. If the issues remain unresolved parents/carers may complain in writing to the Chairperson of the Governing Body. If parents/carers aren't satisfied with the school's response, they can follow it up with a complaint direct to the Department for Education.

And finally...

"The best thing about Smithy Street is the atmosphere and feeling as you move about the school..."



"I make nice friends at Smithy Street."

Smithy Street Primary School

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www.smithystreet.org.uk