

The Curriculum

At Priory Rise School we offer a curriculum that is rich and interesting and which fully meets the requirements of the National Curriculum. We have organised the curriculum into half-termly themes as we believe that learning is more meaningful to children when it can be linked together. We therefore aim to make the most of links between subjects – for example in Key Stage 1 when children are studying African animals, in Design Technology they design and make African masks and they also learn about different African stories and the different customs and languages in African countries. There are some themes which have a literacy focus whilst others may be more focused on other aspects of the curriculum such as science, history or geography. However, there will be some areas of the curriculum which continue to be taught as discrete subjects such as Modern Languages. French is currently offered to children from Year 3 to 6.

At Priory Rise School we give great emphasis to the development of literacy skills – speaking and listening, reading and writing. We believe the acquisition of good literacy skills is essential to life-long learning, and skills acquired in literacy underpin children's learning across the whole curriculum. Whilst literacy is developed across many areas of the curriculum, we also ensure that children throughout KS1 and KS2 have a daily literacy lesson. In the Foundation Stage, literacy takes place within short whole class lessons, group work and individual work. We have therefore invested considerably in resources for the teaching of reading and writing, and have developed a clear and comprehensive policy which sets out our approach to the teaching of literacy.

Whilst making the curriculum exciting and interesting, our teachers make sure that rigorous planning and assessments are in place to ensure children are making progress and that their learning steps are carefully planned. We also make sure that teaching is inspiring and motivational and makes use of the very best modern and technological resources.



Building and Facilities

The building design and facilities at Priory Rise provide excellent conditions for learning for all children. Our school building is light, attractive, spacious and inspiring; fully accessible for wheelchair users with wide doorways, ramped access and lifts and disabled toilet facilities. As well as large classrooms, there are a number of specialist teaching spaces. These include:

- An excellent, well-resourced and exciting library
- A specialist well-equipped music room
- A dedicated technology/art room
- Small group rooms
- A modern well-equipped kitchen – enabling all of our meals to be freshly cooked on site

We have invested considerably in IT; internet and network access is available throughout the whole of the school. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard, data projector and visualiser fitted as standard and we have purchased class sets of laptops and tablets.

Our school is centred around a courtyard playground which offers our youngest children a truly amazing, imaginative and inspiring play area. This area has an 'around the world' theme with soft play surfacing in the shape of different continents, flag poles, standing stones and large wooden animals. To the rear of the school we have three dedicated playgrounds including a fenced ball-court. All of these areas have been designed and equipped to facilitate a wide range of different sports and active play as well as quieter areas for children to engage in less energetic activities. The school also has a generous sized field, an environmental/garden area, a pond and lots of attractive planted areas including apple trees and native hedgerows.

The design for the building was inspired by the artist Mondrian, whose work is characterised by large rectangular blocks of colour. In addition we have a giant kaleidoscope in the library which represents the culmination of an art project with the artist Simon Watkinson. The kaleidoscope is embossed with the initials of the children who were at Priory Rise during the first year we opened in 2008.

To really appreciate for yourself what Priory Rise can offer you and your child, please call the school office to make an appointment for a tour. In addition, the school website has further information about the school as well as photographs showing the wonderful facilities and environment for learning.



What our children say about Priory Rise...

...these are just some of the things our Student Council representatives say about the school:

"All of our teachers make learning fun" **Jivanthika**

"Teachers give you encouragement and help you to learn" **Archie**

"When we work together as a team of supportive friends we can overcome any obstacles" **Lily**

"I really enjoy PE because the teachers make it fun" **Harvey**

"I really enjoy the school trips – they are such fun" **Millie**

"The hot dinners are yummy and delicious!" **Oliver**

"There is always something to do at lunch time – I especially enjoy basketball" **Suchir**

"Coming to this school, brightens up my day" **Zia**

"Everyone is kind and helpful at Priory Rise" **Eve**

"I like all the different sports activities and our play equipment is really fun" **Amaan**

"We have lots of great clubs to join in with" **Lamishaa**

"Priory Rise makes learning fun" **Cooper**

Priory Rise School

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Inspiring a **passion** for learning!

Welcome

On behalf of the school community, I am delighted to welcome you to Priory Rise School and very much hope that this is the beginning of a very special partnership.

At Priory Rise we have very high expectations of everyone and continually aspire for our school to be an inspirational and exciting place of learning. We have built and developed a highly successful, happy and thriving community and were delighted that Ofsted recognised our many strengths and outstanding practice when they inspected our school. We are very proud of our strong and inclusive community, the culture of high expectation and learning, the high quality teaching and the excellent care of our children. Diversity, inclusion and achievement for all are woven through our values and our approach to teaching and learning.

Priory Rise is a school that everyone feels proud to belong to and we take great pride and pleasure from the wonderful achievements of our children. We all consider ourselves privileged to be part of the school and continually seek to build on our excellent foundations and make Priory Rise even better.

Sue Cox



Our School Aims

We would like our children to...

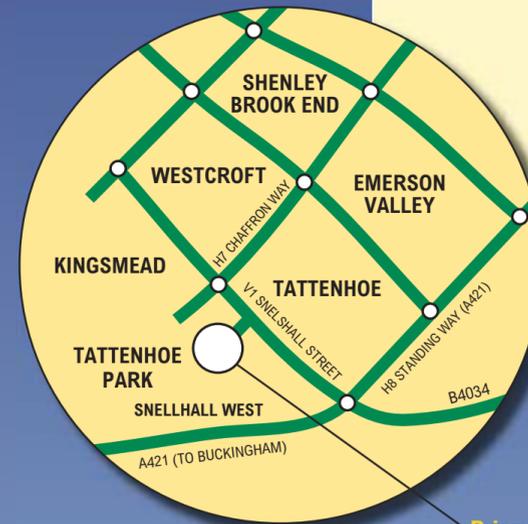
- Achieve highly to the best of their ability and enjoy learning
- Be caring, responsible, well behaved and polite citizens who are active members of our school community
- Be confident, happy and independent learners with high self-esteem
- Understand how they learn and take responsibility for aspects of their own learning
- Be confident users of modern technology

In order to achieve this we will...

- Provide inspiring and motivational teaching which challenges children to think
- Set high standards of behaviour and encourage individual responsibility
- Ensure that everyone expects the best of and for every child
- Provide exciting and creative learning opportunities including the use of modern technology
- Create a happy, secure environment where relationships are excellent and where every child is valued and feels safe
- Help children to understand how they learn best and develop the skills for life-long learning
- Work closely with parents and carers, developing excellent home-school relationships
- Provide opportunities to participate in community activities in and out of school and learn about the world around them

Our Local Area

Priory Rise School opened in September 2008. Initially we opened with just three classes of children from Foundation up to Year 4; however the school has grown considerably since this time! Following a significant building programme which enhanced and extended the original building, over time our school roll will grow to cater for up to 90 children in each year group. In addition we have a nursery which offers up to 60 part-time places.



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Admissions Policy

The local authority is the Admissions Authority for Priory Rise School. The defined area for the school is Tattenhoe Park and South Kingsmead; however we have two 'secondary' defined areas – North Kingsmead and Tattenhoe.

School places are allocated in line with Milton Keynes Council's admissions criteria shown below, subject to parents completing and returning an application form and taking into account the class size limits for pupils in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

The criteria applies to the admission of children who are starting school for the first time or who are requesting admission during the academic year – for example newly moved into the area.



Children who have an Education and Health Care Plan will be given priority for admission within the normal admission round for children starting school for the first time. Where there is oversubscription the following criteria will be used to allocate places.

- 1) A looked after child or previously looked after child.
- 2) Children who live in the defined area of the school and have a sibling on roll at the time of admission of the younger sibling. Proof of residence will be required.
- 3) Children who live in the defined area served by the school and there is no sibling. Proof of residence will be required.
- 4) Children who live outside the defined area and have a sibling on roll at the time of admission of the younger sibling.
- 5) Children who live outside the defined area of the school.

In the event of oversubscription under any of the criteria above, places will be allocated according to the distance between the child's normal home address and the school's main entrance, measured in a straight line, using the council's computerised measuring system with those living closest to the school receiving the higher priority. It is important to bear in mind the criteria when completing the application.

Please note that there is no automatic right of a place at a particular primary school even if there is already a sibling at the highest ranked "out-area" school or your child attends an infant school linked to a ranked junior or primary school/ If you are moving home within or into Milton Keynes this may affect any application you are making to a school for your child.

Please contact the local authority admissions department for further information.

If you are interested in your child attending Priory Rise School please do not hesitate to contact the school office to make an appointment to look around the school. We are delighted to show parents around our school, discuss our approaches to teaching and learning and our school aims.