

# LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Welcome to **LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

## **It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Lowton West Primary School.**

At Lowton West Primary School we aim to provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment, in which all pupils will thrive and reach their full potential.

Our school ethos is very important to us and we are very proud of our happy and welcoming atmosphere. We set high expectations and provide a supportive, encouraging environment in which children experience success and are valued as individuals.

Children enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum that is exciting, vibrant and creative. All pupils are encouraged to be independent, resilient learners. Emphasis is placed upon both children's physical and mental health.

We ensure that children have access to a high quality 'arts' curriculum which includes dance, drama, music and art. The children also enjoy a range of physical activities and we are very proud of our sporting achievements.

There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer for all pupils and we endeavour to bring the curriculum to life by organising a variety of trips and visitors to school.

Most importantly, we value our strong links with our parents, pupils, governors and the community. We pride ourselves on our teamwork – everyone plays an important part in the education of our pupils and their journey of lifelong learning.

Children leave our school well-prepared for high school and with happy, positive memories of their experiences and achievements at Lowton West.

We believe all the children should be informed, self-motivated and responsible citizens.

We want them to leave the school with a sense of well-being and with happy, positive memories of their experiences and achievements at Lowton West.

**Mrs J. Westhead  
Headteacher**



Dear Prospective Parents/Carers,

## **Thank you for your interest in Lowton West Primary School.**

Our school is well known for its friendly and caring ethos and the way it values children. It is a happy and warm place with a calm atmosphere where each child's learning, character and spirit can thrive. At the same time, emphasis is given to the importance of respect and good behaviour.

We offer enjoyment through a broad and balanced curriculum. Our staff are experienced and committed, working in partnership with parents/carers and children so that we can provide your child with the highest quality education.

We hope you find our prospectus informative but please remember that no piece of paper can tell you what a school is really like, so we invite you to come and see us for yourselves. We will be happy to show you around our school at work and to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to working in partnership with you so that together we can enhance your child's vital years at primary school.

**Mr B. Cunliffe  
Chair of the Governing Body**

**“This is a very welcoming, friendly school and parents value the caring ethos that you have created. The parents and grandparents that I spoke to at the start of the day were very positive about the school and said that they would recommend it to others.”**  
**OFSTED 2017**



# Aiming high together

## OUR VISION

TO INSPIRE, ACHIEVE AND SUCCEED,  
WE WILL AIM HIGH AND BUILD DREAMS  
AND FUTURES TOGETHER

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Providing the highest quality education, care and support for the whole school community.

Our mission statement is based on RESPECT:

R = Recognising the needs of the individual child

E = Ensuring a unique and engaging curriculum

S = Supporting each other to learn and achieve

P = Passionate about providing the highest quality education

E = Encouraging creativity, self-expression and imagination

C = Creating confident, resilient, life-long learners

T = The voice of everybody is heard

All the above statements help us to understand how we can all make a positive contribution to the school and the wider community.

## OUR CORE SCHOOL VALUES

RESPECT | RESILIENCE | KINDNESS | CONFIDENCE

## BRITISH VALUES

We also, at Lowton West Primary School, strive to develop and uphold British Values.

The five British values that the Government has identified for schools to focus on are: -

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Developing personal and social responsibility
- Respect for British Institutions

There are more details on how our school demonstrates and develops these British Values in our British Values Policy and



## Off to a flying start

“ I like Lowton West because school motivates me to continue learning at home with programmes such as ‘TT Rockstars’, where I can challenge my friends at their times tables, ‘spelling shed’ and ‘read theory’. I love how I can get these programmes on all platforms at home such as a mobile phone, i-pad, tablet – it really helps me to further my learning in school.”

A PUPIL

In Reception, the children settle quickly at Lowton West due to the excellent support, care and guidance that they receive. Children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which is brought to life through a range of hands-on, practical activities in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. There is an emphasis on personal development, early phonics, reading and maths.

A large, outdoor covered area has recently been added to the outdoor provision, allowing children to access outdoor learning during all weathers.

The school uses a learning App to keep parents updated in relation to their child's progress. Photographs are uploaded by the staff so that parents can see photographs of their child in action at school!



Our Curriculum is centred around the needs of our children. We aim to provide them with exciting and memorable learning experiences that will stay with them forever. The curriculum is brought to life through a range of trips and visitors to school.

Teaching promotes collaboration and co-operation as well as encouraging pupils to become independent and resilient learners.

We follow the National Curriculum and offer a broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils enjoy being taught the following subjects

- Reading/ early phonics
- Writing
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Music
- Religious Education
- Computing
- Physical Education
- Design Technology
- Modern Foreign Language (at Key Stage 2)
- Personal, social, Health education (PSHE)

# Our curriculum

Some of our wide range of trips and visits include:

- Reception visit to Farmer Ted's
- 'History Alive' workshops (e.g. Ancient Egypt, Victorian classroom, Seaside workshop with 'Punch and Judy' show)
- Knowsley Safari Park visit
- Stockport Air-Raid Shelter
- Year 6 Outdoor Pursuits residential visit
- Museum visits
- Jodrell Bank
- Visits to art galleries
- Visits to see live orchestral performances
- Visiting theatre company (pantomime)

**“Leaders and teachers know their pupils well and are able to respond to their individual needs appropriately.”**  
OFSTED 2017

**“All pupils who spoke to me during the inspection were extremely positive about their school. They speak highly of their teachers, particularly how helpful they are. Pupils have genuine enthusiasm for their learning, which they find interesting and enjoyable. Mathematics is particularly popular and pupils relish the way that teachers challenge them in this subject.”**  
OFSTED 2017



**“Online safety is a high priority in school. Staff have received training in this area and you send out regular information to parents on this issue. You also devote themed days to this topic.”**  
OFSTED 2017

# Curriculum enrichment

## Exciting opportunities for every child beyond the classroom:

We strongly believe that children learn best when they have fun and enjoy their learning. We ensure that children experience a wide range of opportunities to further develop their learning.

Special events and themed days/ weeks are planned annually so that children can enjoy activities such as:

- Dressing up for World Book Day
- Carol Concerts for parents
- Arts Week
- Anti-bullying week
- Healthy Lifestyles programme
- Raising money for charity
- Year group assemblies for parents/ carers
- On-line safety days
- Participation in art exhibitions
- Participation in sports competitions

**“Several parents spoke of how much their children love coming to school and how happy they are there. As one parent stated: ‘My son comes home with a smile on his face and tells me how much he enjoys school.’”**  
OFSTED 2017





**“I like Lowton West because of the new sports we get to play in Premier Sport sessions during lunchtimes. This is because we like to get active in this school.”**  
**KEY STAGE 2 PUPIL**

The school has an excellent sporting reputation within the community. Children are given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular sports clubs and the school enters many local sports competitions, often winning or being placed as runners-up.

The school often qualifies to represent Wigan at the Greater Manchester Games and many of our pupils also represent both local and regional sports teams.

# Sporting excellence

**Sporting competitions that the school enters include:** Basketball, rounders, football, tennis, tag rugby, cross country, athletics, gymnastics, dance, cricket, boccia, netball, tennis.

**Inter-house competitions**  
 Inter-house competitions within school are regularly organised so that all pupils experience competitive sports.

**Keeping fit and healthy**  
 As part of the PE curriculum, children are taught about how to keep themselves fit and healthy. They participate in the 'golden mile' activity and enjoy two hours of sports provision each week.

**The PE curriculum**  
 Children are taught dance, gymnastics, athletics, outdoor and adventurous activities and a range of games as part of the PE curriculum. Games taught include tri-golf, rugby, basketball, netball, football and target games.

Specialist coaches are also invited into school to lead sessions on other sports such as fencing and curling.

**Sports at lunchtimes**  
 The school employ specialist sports coaches to provide a range of sports activities for pupils during the lunchtime period.

**Swimming**  
 Children in Year 4 access swimming lessons at Leigh Sports Village.

**“I like Lowton West because we go on lots of school trips. We have been to the safari park, air raid shelter and we are going to Jodrell Bank as part of our Space topic! I love being with my friends all day and learning new things together.”**  
**A PUPIL**

# Extra-curricular activities

Our teachers, teaching assistants, sports coaches and other specialist teachers are involved in leading a wide range of extra-curricular activities at lunchtimes, before school and after school.

Here is a selection of our clubs:

- Football
- Athletics
- Gymnastics
- Choir
- Science
- Cross Country
- Gardening
- Arts and crafts
- Homework
- Multi-skills sports
- Dance
- Basketball
- Cricket





We place a strong emphasis on promoting a high quality arts curriculum. The children are given excellent opportunities to excel in art and design, music, dance and drama.

### Choir Club

Our Choir Club enjoy rehearsing together and performing at the Christmas Fair, in the local community, in whole school assemblies and at the 'Young Voices' concert (Manchester Arena).

### The Music Curriculum

Children are taught the elements of performing, composing and listening and appraising.

All pupils enjoy singing a wide range of songs and all children have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, including the recorder and the ukulele.

Children benefit from music lessons and singing sessions led by specialist music teachers in school.

### Instrumental Tuition

Around 80 to 100 pupils learn to play a musical instrument through the peripatetic music service and many enter music exams, showing the excellent progress that they have made.

### The Art Curriculum

In art lessons, pupils enjoy developing their artistic skills and the school participates in art competitions and art exhibitions.



# The arts at Lowton West



**“I like Music because we have specialist teachers. We sing a variety of songs (I like rock!) and because I already have an interest in the guitar and keyboard, I am happy to be learning to play the ukulele in class.”**  
A PUPIL

**“I love writing as it's fun in school. I love coming up with stories, especially when they are based on books that we are reading in school.”**  
A PUPIL

### Arts Week

During our annual Arts Weeks, pupils have been involved in a range of activities including:

- Dance sessions
- Working with a resident artist
- Range of art activities
- Art projects with the local high schools
- Drama workshops
- Pottery (the younger pupils used a potter's wheel to make a pot)
- Visits and performances from local high school choirs and musical ensembles



## Our facilities

We take great pride in ensuring that the school learning environment is of the highest standard. The school has a range of facilities/ resources which benefit all pupils and include:

- Three playgrounds
- An extensive playing field
- School hall with lighting/ sound systems and air conditioning
- Staging/ lighting for performances
- A large school garden with willow arch, outdoor seating area, polytunnel and greenhouse (made out of plastic recycled bottles)
- Wide range of playground equipment
- Trim trail
- Year 5/6 computer suite
- Laptops/ i-pads
- Smart TVs/ interactive whiteboards in every classroom
- Air conditioning in the school hall and in several classrooms
- Excellent kitchen facilities

## Refurbishment

During the period from 2016 to 2019, the school has undergone an extensive refurbishment programme which has included:

- Extending several classrooms
- Outdoor covered area for the Reception classes
- Air conditioning in classrooms and the school hall
- New open plan Infant library
- Improved pathways for parents at the end of the school day
- New corridors within school to improve access around the school
- New trim trail on the Infant playground
- New PE store
- New ceiling/ lighting in the school hall

## Safeguarding

### Children are safe...

- Safeguarding policies and procedures are in place
- The school site is safe and secure
- Children learn how to keep themselves safe during assemblies and during lessons
- On-line safety is taught and promoted at all times
- Children are well-behaved and follow the 'Code of Conduct'
- Pastoral systems are in place to support individual pupils
- The school employs a school counsellor and offers nurture group support to pupils
- Merit Awards and the House Point System are rewards which encourage and promote excellent behaviour throughout the school
- Children are encouraged to attend school regularly and on time

All information in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding can be found on our school website.

**“I like Lowton West because playtimes are lovely because my friends are really nice to me and I'm nice back to them. If anyone is ever upset or alone we always invite them into the game as we like including everybody in our school.”**  
**A PUPIL**

# Our unique school

## Our Merit Award System

Each week every class teacher chooses pupils for the following awards:

- Gold Merit Award (linked to the weekly theme)
- Silver Merit Award (linked to the weekly theme)
- Bronze Merit Award (linked to the weekly theme)
- Writer of the Week
- Maths Master of the Week
- Reading Champion of the week

## Our House Point System

At Lowton West, we have four houses (named after famous authors). Children enjoy earning house points and, at the end of each half term, the house points are counted up. The pupils in the winning house are allowed to come into school in their own clothes for a day!

## Our Playtime Fun!

There are three playgrounds, a very large playing field and a school garden for the children to access at playtimes (some of these more so during the Spring and Summer months).

Children love playing with and socialising with their friends at playtimes. There are a wide range of activities on offer for the children to enjoy which include:

- A range of outdoor play equipment such as balance boards, throwing games, skipping ropes, hoops, large 'Connect 4', building blocks, etc...
- Designated quiet areas with benches and tables
- Specialist sports coach for Key Stage 1 pupils (daily)
- Specialist sports coach for Key Stage 2 pupils (daily)
- Gardening activities in the school garden
- Wet playtime games/ colouring activities/ DVDs for indoor playtimes

**“You ensure that a strong culture of safeguarding is at the heart of the school. All safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose, including protocols and practices for record-keeping.”**  
**OFSTED 2017**



## Roles and responsibilities:

We encourage pupils to become independent learners and to take on roles and responsibilities. Some of the roles and responsibilities include:

- House Captains (Year 6 pupils)
- School Council
- Eco-committee
- Play Leaders
- Play Buddies

# Roles in School

## The School Council

The School Council is made up of representatives from all classes (from Year 2 to Year 6). This group of pupils represent the 'pupil voice' and are a very active committee.

Over the past years, the School Council have been instrumental in ensuring that new initiatives have been developed. Some examples include:

- The introduction of three new 'Reading Sheds' that the whole school can access as spaces to enjoy reading
- Ensuring that there are outdoor clocks on the playground
- Choosing the new names for the four houses in school (based on famous authors)
- Introducing a healthy snack bar at playtimes
- Choosing which charities the school should raise funds for
- Organising 'Children in Need' days
- Leading assemblies during 'anti-bullying' week
- Organising 'Walk to School Week' (as part of the School Travel Plan initiative).



The Friends of Lowton West Association

## The Eco-Committee

The Eco-committee is made up of pupils, staff and Governors. Our Eco-Warriors enjoy leading a range of activities such as developing the school's eco-code and monitoring the amount of energy used in school.

## The Friends of Lowton West Association

The Friends Association volunteer their time to raise money for the school through a range of community events which are enjoyed by everyone.

Some of the events that the Friends Association have organised include:

- Coffee mornings
- Bingo nights
- After-school cinema clubs
- Discos
- Summer Fairs

The money raised helps to pay for school trips, specialist guests/workshops to enhance the curriculum, developments to the school garden, funding for the annual Arts Week and funding for new equipment (e.g. playtime games). The Friends Association have also purchased furniture for the new Key Stage 1 library and supported the School Council by purchasing the new Reading Sheds.

The Friends Association also regularly donate to charities such as 'Cancer Research' and 'Meningitis Trust'.

## Partnerships with Parents/Carers

We encourage strong links with parents/ carers from the earliest stage of your child's education and throughout your child's time at our school. Links are developed through:

New Intake meetings, Inspire visits (for the new Reception pupils and their parents), Year Ahead meetings (at the start of each new year group), SATs information meetings, Phonics information meetings, Reading meetings, Mats workshops, other Parent workshops and information meetings.

In addition to this, there are Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms and the opportunity to meet with the class teacher following receipt of your child's annual report.

We also have an 'open door' policy and encourage parents/ carers to come into school at any time to discuss their child's progress or any concerns.

Parents/ carers are invited into school to watch performances and encouraged to come along and support the wide range of events that the school offers.



**“ I like Lowton West because we have a wide variety of books in our library which means that you can find something new to read. This means that I can read many different authors and find out the types of books they love.”**

**A PUPIL**



**Visits to school are strongly encouraged.  
To arrange a visit please contact the school office.**

## **LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Mrs J. Westhead  
Headteacher

**You can also visit our school website for further information about our school.**

**[www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)**

**“ I like school because of the Maths we do. If we are ever struggling with something, a teacher will help and provide us with different methods that we can use. This makes me understand it better and feel more confident.”**

**A PUPIL**

