

Greenfields Community School



گرین فیلڈز کمیونٹی سکول



Outside Learning

Greenfields Community School/



GREENFIELDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Greenfields is delighted to have been involved with the Food for Life Partnership for the last seven years as one of the East Midlands Flagship schools and is now close to reaching the prestigious Gold Award!

As a school, we have prioritised the development of outside learning as a key part of providing a great education for our children. The Food for Life project has fitted in with this perfectly.

We have developed the outside area to include kitchen and wildlife gardens with eight raised beds, a wildflower meadow, a copse and a Forest Schools area. Our gardener has developed different areas around the school and runs an after school Gardening Club as well as teaching the children gardening skills during curriculum time.

Cooking club, run by two TAs, uses the produce where possible and is based on skills ladders and enables all of the children in Years 3, 5 and 6 to have 12 hours cooking experience per year. Two classes also have two farm visits per year. We work very closely with the local community, including the Arkwright Meadows Community Garden.

In addition, two teachers are fully trained in Forest Schools, enabling children from Reception to Year 4 to go through the Forest Schools programme on school grounds. This is an absolutely fantastic opportunity.

As part of the Food For Life Project, Nottingham City Catering have been extremely supportive in helping us improve dinnertimes – over 70% of the food served at dinnertime is now locally sourced and 30% organic – and dinnertimes have improved dramatically! Nottingham City Catering has now achieved the Gold Catering Mark for its work in supporting Greenfields.

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We had an OFSTED Inspection in school in March 2013 and were absolutely delighted that the OFSTED Inspectors have judge the school to "outstanding."

We are extremely proud of the outcome of this Inspection. The previous Inspection (February 2008) judged Greenfields to be a "Good" school. To have improved upon this grade, especially in the light of the far more strenuous revised OFSTED framework, is an absolutely fantastic achievement.

OFSTED judged the school to be "outstanding" in all four areas on which they make judgement – the achievement of children, the quality of teaching and learning, the behaviour and safety of pupils and the quality of leadership and management.

This has been very much a team effort, with parents, staff, children and Governors all working very closely together to provide the best possible education for the children. It is also a fabulous result for the community of the Meadows, a community which sadly doesn't always get the recognition that it deserves.

It was particularly satisfying see that the Inspectors recognised the wide variety of "extra-curricular activities" that we provide for the children – singing, art and music and also that they recognised the value of outside learning, gardening and Forest Schools. At one point in the report, the Inspectors describe "the moving sense of joy shown by everyone in whole-school singing". This is a sentence you don't see very often in an OFSTED report.



Further information about the school is also available on our website, www.greenfields.nottingham.sch.uk

School Context and Aims

Greenfields Community School opened in September 2005 following the closure and amalgamation of two successful primary schools, Arkwright and Meadows. This formed part of the City of Nottingham LA's school reorganisation plans to reduce the number of primary schools within the city due to, at that time, falling rolls and excess capacity.

The catchment area of the school includes a community that is culturally rich and diverse. Some 75% of the children are from ethnic minority families. The largest minority ethnic community is Pakistani Muslim and the school now benefits from a large variety of children from differing backgrounds, cultures and languages. Many children are from asylum-seeking and refugee families. More than thirty languages are spoken in the school.

The Meadows does suffer quite high levels of unemployment and some social deprivation and more than 45% of the pupils are entitled to receive free school meals.

The school itself is about 30 years old and is situated in its own fantastic grounds at a point where older housing and redeveloped areas come together. The school benefited from a complete refurbishment as part of the Primary Capital Programme in 2011. There is a separate, new Foundation Unit which holds Nursery and Reception age children and which is situated in the former Meadows Primary School building. The remainder of that building houses a SureStart Children's Centre. The two sites are also next to the Arkwright-Meadows Community Garden which completes the campus.

The number on roll (from Reception to Year 6) at present is 210 with an additional 30 FTE places in the Foundation Unit. There are six classes in the main school, of which two are in Key Stage 1 and four are in Key Stage 2.

The current staff of the school consists of: -

Head Teacher
Deputy Head Teacher
2 Foundation Unit Teachers
8 Class Teachers
1.8 FTE Support teachers
1 part-time EMAG Teachers
1 part-time Bilingual Language Instructor
10 Teaching Assistants
1 Office Manager and administrative assistant
1 Site Manager
7 Mid-day Supervisors
2 Lunchtime Playworker
1 Music Teacher
1 Gardener
1 Bursar
1 ICT Technician
1 School Therapist



The foundation of Greenfields Community School is our strong commitment to personal and social development, our caring approach and our belief that every child at our school is entitled to experience success. We have high expectations of our children and we positively encourage and reward their achievements. We believe strongly in working with the local community and in creating a positive environment in which to work.

The curriculum which the children follow is broad-based and includes development on academic, social and moral levels. SEN support is considered a priority and is provided to targeted individuals and to groups of pupils. Currently, 35% of the pupils are on the Register of Special Needs. Our Teaching Assistants are extremely skilled in supporting individual children and small groups of children and the Learning Mentor and School Counsellor support children and families who may be experiencing difficulties.

We plan collaboratively from a whole school curriculum framework, choosing topics to be taught from Foundation to Year 6 each half-term.

Strong emphasis is given to cross-curricular planning and developing creative approaches to learning. We arrange many trips and visits in the locality and further afield to support the children's learning, working with artists as part of the Creative Partnerships programme. School employs a music teacher who works with each class one day a week and the Year 4 children take part in the Wider Opportunities programme, learning to play the clarinet.

As a response to the introduction of a revised National Curriculum in September 2014, we conceived the "Greenfields Guarantee" – a way for the school to openly publicise its commitment to a cross-curricular approach to education which also challenges the children and provides them with the best possible start to Secondary education. In September 2013, we appointed a new teacher who has responsibility for Curriculum Co-ordination as well as overseeing Outside Education across the school.

The school gardener teaches gardening skills to two Year groups per year and also runs an after-school club as well as developing different areas of the site, developing the site to encourage outside learning. All produce cooked on school grounds is used in either within cooking sessions or by the kitchen.

We encourage learning outside the classroom as much as possible, across all curriculum areas. Two teachers are fully trained in Forest Schools and we are officially a Forest School site, delivering a Forest Schools education to all children from Nursery to Year 4.

As part of the Food for Life Partnership, every child in three year groups is taught to cook for at least twelve hours per year, working from a set of skills ladders and learning to cook a variety of dishes.

A music teacher works with us for two days per week, teaching class music sessions, whole school singing, choir and individual instrumental tuition to Years 4, 5 and 6 children.

