



# South Witham Academy Prospectus

Part of the Brooke Hill Academy  
Trust



# Welcome to Brooke Hill Academy Trust

The governors and staff of the Trust are pleased to welcome your interest and hope that this prospectus gives you an insight into our school. You will find information about daily school life, including an overview of the curriculum and the wide variety of experiences our children enjoy. You can also visit our school websites which are up to date with the latest news and events at the schools in our trust.  
[www.south-witham.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.south-witham.lincs.sch.uk)

While we ensure that all of our children make the best possible academic progress, we are also committed to offering children a diverse range of opportunities to develop their social, sporting and creative skills in a caring and supportive environment.

Brooke Hill Academy Trust is comprised of three schools: South Witham Academy, Brooke Hill Academy in Oakham and Edith Weston Academy.

The collaboration of our three schools offers numerous benefits allowing children to share resources and staff expertise. This also includes a comprehensive gifted and talented programme, joint residential trips and a swimming pool for us all to use.

We have a committed group of Members, Trustees and Governors from a broad spectrum of professional backgrounds who work with each school to support the curriculum and help secure resources. They also monitor progress of the detailed School Development Plans which have been devised to improve standards and enhance opportunities for all children.

We hope you enjoy reading this prospectus, and look forward to welcoming you to our schools.

Mrs Sharon Milner (Executive Headteacher)



# South Witham Academy

At South Witham Academy, we have the highest aspirations for all our pupils and are committed to providing a diverse range of opportunities in a stimulating environment to enable all children to thrive and succeed in their learning journey. We put children at the heart of everything we do so we have involved them in devising our school character traits.

- Honesty
- Independence
- Friendship
- Curiosity / Explorer
- Courage and Risk Taking
- Self Control
- Self Esteem
- Respect
- Perseverance
- Listening and Communication
- Empathy and Compassion
- Imagination and Creativity



These help us to foster a happy and caring environment for all children. We pride ourselves on getting to know our children well so that they are able to reach their full potential in all aspects of school life.

## Leadership Team

Being part of Brooke Hill Academy Trust we work closely with Edith Weston Academy and Brooke Hill Academy to ensure the best possible development for our children. The team consists of an Executive Headteacher, who works across all the schools in the Trust, a Head of School supported by a deputy and a Trust wide Head of Teaching and Learning. The team are committed to ensuring our children are presented with a wide variety of academic and extra-curricular opportunities.

As well as having a hard-working Governing Body of Members and Trustees that works across the schools we also have a Local Governing Body, who meet termly to support the school and to monitor the progress made against the School Development Plan.



Visits to our school are welcomed and provide an opportunity for you to meet the children and talk to staff. Our website also provides up to date information and gives a real feel for our exciting school:

[www.south-witham.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.south-witham.lincs.sch.uk)

# Teaching and learning

**We set high standards for all of our pupils to help them become independent, lifelong learners.**

We carefully monitor progress to make sure that every child gets the support and guidance that they need. We tailor our curriculum to ensure that we can offer stimulating, varied lessons to engage all of our pupils. Our classrooms are always buzzing with activity, and we encourage children to play a leading role in their own learning and to develop independence. We also try to extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom with lessons taking place in our vast school grounds.

## **Our staff**

All of our teaching staff are skilled and dedicated to engaging and inspiring every child in their care. All classes are supported by well qualified and committed teaching assistants. Our staff team benefits from a wealth of experience and areas of expertise so that we maintain high standards and a rich and varied curriculum.

## **The Curriculum**

We follow the National Curriculum, ensuring that every opportunity is taken to foster our ethos of “exploring and learning together”. We have devised an exciting, project –based curriculum plan for each year group across the schools in our Multi-Academy Trust. The curriculum maps children’s progress in all areas through a practical, hands-on approach. Alongside the project framework, Maths is taught daily in each class with differentiated activities to meet the needs of every child. We have high standards in the Arts and a commitment to Eco Schools with all the children taking part in a bespoke forest school course.

## **PE**

We are immensely proud of our sports provision and we have been awarded Gold Sportsmark since 2017. We aim for children to take part in **at least 2 hours** of PE each week. The opportunities for sport are rich and varied with coaching in netball, football, rugby, gymnastics, dance and cycling proficiency, as well as taster courses in an array of different sports throughout the year including golf and tennis. Whilst we take part in a good deal of competitive sport, we

encourage all children to participate in a wide range of different sports and provide opportunities for friendly games, Change 4 Life activities and fun fitness sessions. **We also benefit from the use of an indoor swimming pool at Edith Weston Academy.**





## Pre-school and Early Years



### Little Hedgehogs

We offer children aged 2-4 years a chance to come and join our 'Little Hedgehogs Nursery'. Sessions are Monday to Friday 8.50 –12.50pm to include lunch.

There are opportunities for the children to participate in a wide variety of learning provided through the careful provision of activities such as playdough, painting, water play, sand play, singing, dancing, parachute games and musical instruments. Children can enjoy exciting learning activities while developing social skills and curiosity. Sessions are run by our experienced qualified Early Years professionals.

## Early Years Foundation Stage

We are very proud of our Early Years and Foundation Stage provision (EYFS). The EYFS class is a large open and accessible space with a fantastic outside area that enables stimulating, independent learning and our talented staff ensure that children have the best possible start to their school life.

All children in the Reception Class and Key Stage 1 class receive a free meal each day

Parents are warmly invited to be involved in their children's school day.

We use a web based communication and assessment app that allows the EYFS staff to send pictures and updates of children in school on a regular basis. Parents then have access to these updates and are able to comment on their child's progress.

Parents are also invited into school regularly to share in class assemblies, 'Stay and Play' sessions, stories and to celebrate the children's achievements. Please talk to us about how we can facilitate you using your 30 hours funding.



## Key Stage One



In Key Stage 1 children enjoy a wide range of curriculum-related projects that are linked to their interests. Most topics involve visits or visitors to help bring their 'learning to life' and children enjoy frequent local trips, walks in the villages, visits to local churches and sometimes further afield to enrich their learning. Building upon the strong start in the Foundation Stage, the children are encouraged to have a practical, hands on learning experiences and a significant amount of

their curriculum involves exciting kinaesthetic activities.

## Key Stage Two

Our Key Stage Two curriculum continues to give pupils a broad, balanced and creative curriculum whilst continuing the ethos of strong academic rigour. Visits and visitors form a regular part of our curriculum provision.

The pupils benefit from weekly music lessons. Individual or group instrumental lessons are also available in school. We encourage musicians to perform during assemblies and other events. We take part in the Young Voices concert at Birmingham each year too.



Each year the children in Year 5 take part in a residential visit to a PGL centre and children in Year 6 go to York for three days. All children are encouraged to take part in all excursions and we are able to offer financial support where needed.

## Assessment

Teachers continually assess children's progress and this is reported to parents three times a year. Challenging targets are set for all pupils and they are aware of their next steps in learning. Open mornings are offered each term for parents to celebrate their children's achievements and progress. Staff are always willing to meet with parents as and when the need arises.

Workshops are held for parents so that they can support learning at home and communication between school and home supports children's learning. Our website provides up to date information about learning in school and examples of teaching methods.

## Gifted, Talented and SEND provision

As part of our commitment to tailoring our curriculum to meet the needs of every child, we employ a large number of talented teachers and teaching assistants and we are confident that we are able to support the needs of all children, using an Individual Education Plan where appropriate. If children have specific needs we work with them, parents and other professional to create the best environment and learning opportunities for all of our pupils.

We offer a comprehensive programme of challenge and support for our gifted and talented pupils, including maths challenges, writing competitions, general knowledge quiz participation, design and technology projects, science workshops and regular sport coaching and musical activities. Children are given the opportunity to share their talents in assemblies and events for parents.



## Homework

Homework can support the work that children do in class and reinforce their learning. Children have a set amount of homework each day, based on DfE guidance, and should be encouraged to complete it under suitable conditions and take pride in their work.

A homework club is available for children to use at school.

## Pastoral

Our highly skilled and experienced teaching and support staff team offer superb pastoral care to all of our children and their families. We pride ourselves on getting to know our families quickly so that they can settle happily into the school environment.

All members of our school community are welcome to attend a comprehensive programme of activities including:

- \* regular whole school and class assemblies,
- \* coffee mornings,
- \* parent workshops,
- \* volunteering in school,
- \* Nursery,
- \* wrap around childcare provision provided by 'The Den' before and after school from 7.30am—6pm.

We look forward to working with parents/carers and offer an 'open door' policy at all times. A weekly newsletter keeps parents up to date with the latest academy news whilst our fantastic website is updated regularly and provides a real insight into life at South Witham Academy.

## Extra-curricular clubs

At South Witham Academy we provide daily extra curricular clubs for children to choose from including lunchtime and after school options. All of these are offered free of charge and we encourage children to take part in extra-curricular activities. Our vast range of clubs includes:

- \* Art
- \* Drama
- \* Dance
- \* Gardening
- \* Football
- \* Rugby
- \* Netball
- \* Athletics
- \* Multi-skills
- \* Cookery
- \* Lunchtime homework
- \* Mindfulness
- \* Engineering





## Safeguarding and child protection procedures

We are committed to safeguarding all of our pupils by promoting their welfare, safety and health and fostering an honest, open, caring and supportive climate. Our Executive Headteacher, Head of School and SENco have undergone Designated Safeguarding Lead training in order to follow the correct procedures should the need arise. All personnel working or volunteering at South Witham are required to undergo a DBS check and a reference check.

### **Academy Policy Statement on Racism and Equal Opportunities**

The academy and its governing body abide by the laws that govern equal opportunities and racial equality. We seek to develop positive attitudes and behaviour appropriate to living in a multicultural society, and to promote a respect for the individual, regardless of race, creed, colour or gender.

### **Confidentiality**


All appropriate measures are taken to ensure that confidentiality is adhered to throughout the academy. All volunteers in school are required to read and sign our Confidentiality Policy and the school is fully compliant with GDPR and Data Protection. We have a Data Protection Officer in place.

### **Behaviour Management**

We have a comprehensive policy in place to promote a positive attitude towards expectations and behaviour throughout our school. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated in our school and any behaviour considered as bullying will be recorded, reported, addressed and reported to parents and governors by the Head of School.

### **Security**

The safety of our children is paramount to us and we endeavour to ensure that our building is secure at all times. All visitors must report to the main office. We have security doors into the school and all visitors are required to provide identification and to sign in. All teachers stay with their class until all children have been collected at the end of the day.



## General Information

### **Attendance**

All children should attend school regularly unless they are ill and then school should be informed as soon as possible by contacting the school office.

We are not able to authorise holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. These should be discussed with the Head of School **before** absence is taken.

### **Medication**

Parents are asked to inform the Head of School of any ongoing medical condition, i.e. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy or allergies, so that the necessary care and consideration can be extended to your child. You are assured that information of this type will be treated in the strictest confidence. All inhalers and epipens must be clearly labelled and kept up to date. These are kept in class areas and children have access to them, under supervision, whenever needed. All of our staff have training in how to deal with asthma and anaphylactic shock.

### **Admissions**

Admissions to our academy are detailed in our Admissions Policy and visits to the academy are warmly welcomed

### **Communication and school bills**

A weekly newsletter keeps parents up to date and information can be found on our website. We have electronic systems in place to communicate with parents and allow parents to pay for any school bills.

### **School Meals**

All children receive a free school meal in EYFS and Key Stage 1. Our delicious meals are freshly cooked on site and the majority of children throughout the school enjoy a hot lunch each day.

### **Collective Worship**

We embrace different cultures and religions in school, showing respect and understanding for all. Our assembly themes promote and consolidate our school values, as well as acknowledging world events and religious festivals. British Values are promoted throughout everything we do.

## Partnership with parents

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) comprises a hardworking and committed group of parents and staff. They aim to raise funds for school through enjoyable, social gatherings. New members are always welcome.

We look forward to working with parent / carers and our 'open door' policy means that we are always accessible.

We hope that this gives you a flavour of life at South Witham Academy. If you have any further queries please contact our school office on 01572 767233



