



Mulberry Park
Educate Together

Parent information and welcome booklet

Learn Together to Live Together



Welcome to the Educate Together Community!

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Mulberry Park Educate Together. We are a happy, friendly and hardworking school providing an environment in which each individual can learn and develop their full potential, a place where we learn together to live together and where no child is an outsider.

Our school is a place where every child:

- is called by his/her own name
- is valued for her/his uniqueness
- is included in all school activities
- is safe, happy, friendly and helpful
- is heard and taken seriously
- has his/her privacy and belongings respected



Joining a new primary school is a major milestone in yours and your child's life and there are a lot of new challenges ahead for you both— some exciting, others perhaps a little bit more nerve-wracking! Hopefully this booklet will help to prepare you and your child for the great adventure of joining us at Mulberry Park ET.

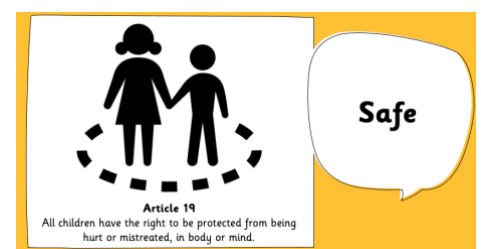
Our School Rules

At Mulberry Park ET, we use a relational and restorative approach to respond to behaviour.

Staff members are positive role models who promote positive behaviour.

At MPET, we have three school rules:

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe



What is the Educate Together Academy Trust?

The Trust is a not-for-profit organisation, a charity regulated by the Department for Education. It is responsible to the Department for Education to ensure that its schools deliver an excellent education to children and value for money to the taxpayer.

Educate Together Ethos and Principles

The Trust has legally binding principles that determine all of its activities. All Educate Together schools and educational operations must be:

- **Equity based** – Through being equitable in our work, all children and staff will have equal access to their rights and, regardless of background, all will be equally respected.
- **Aspirational** – All of our children have the right to a holistic world class education. All our work aims to ensure that every child can make progress and achieve well in every aspect of their education.
- **Child-Centred** – Children are at the heart of every decision and activity. Their voices are actively sought and listened to. They play a lead role in shaping their education.
- **Collaborative** – Our schools aim to be central to the communities they serve. As such, we look for opportunities to give voice to and work in partnership with all stakeholders of the schools.



Our Ethical Education Curriculum

In an Educate Together school, a daily period of time is set aside for our ethical curriculum. This programme is called the “Learn Together” curriculum and is published by Educate Together. It defines the core values of all teaching and learning in the school. It is often taught through an integrated approach alongside the EYFS/National Curriculum. All children take part in this curriculum and may not be excluded from it. Parents understand that this is a core feature of the school. A copy of the curriculum is available from the Trust and the Educate Together website.

The programme is divided into four strands:

- Values and Ethical Perspectives
- Equality and Justice
- An Ethical Approach to the Environment
- Belief Systems

The Learn Together curriculum aims to enable pupils to:

- Become self-aware, reflective individuals with a secure sense of belonging and identity.
- Develop the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that will facilitate them to live as ethical people who are empathetic, socially aware and committed to democratic principles and values, global citizenship, and equality.
- Develop and use critical thinking skills that will facilitate them to critique their world and empower them to give reasoned explanations for their opinions, decisions and actions.
- Recognise their role as active members of a democratic society with the potential to take action that will lead to positive change.
- Recognise the impact of the climate crisis and their role as active members of a democratic society with the potential to take action that will lead to positive change.
- Develop ethical principles in relation to human rights, equality and justice, and apply these principles to their daily lives.
- Become familiar with the tenets and beliefs of the major religions and rational understandings of the world.
- Relate this learning to their individual experience in the context of their local, national and global community.

Values and Ethical Perspectives

Pupils will be enabled to:

- Develop a critical knowledge, understanding and awareness of right and wrong and a heightened awareness of social, ethical, and moral standards through reflection on life itself.
- Learn to explore their own identities and in doing so, strengthen and enhance their self-worth and self-esteem.
- Explore, understand and identify appropriate responses to the multitude and richness of human emotions.
- Identify values integral to personal development which can inform ethical decisions.
- Engage in philosophical discussion and enquiry.

Equality and Justice

Pupils will be enabled to:

- Develop a critical knowledge, understanding and awareness of issues relating to human rights, equality, culture, diversity, social justice and social inclusiveness.
- Develop a critical way of being, fostering questioning, analysis and open engagement with ethical and social justice issues.
- Feel empowered to become informed, ethical and active citizens.

An Ethical Approach to the Environment

Pupils will be enabled to:

- Develop a knowledge, understanding and respect for the natural environment and an appreciation of its fragility and vulnerability.
- Explore the interdependence of life and the impact of over-consumption on the planet.
- Recognise the importance of active citizenship in attempting to redress the impact of human over-consumption on the environment.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the urgency needed to protect the environment for present and future life on the planet.

Belief Systems

Pupils will be enabled to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the richness of belief systems and worldviews, both religious and secular, and relate these to the human experience and day-to-day life.
- Develop an understanding of the right to hold and practise a belief or worldview and to change that belief at any time.
- Develop their knowledge of conceptual understandings as they relate to religious and secular beliefs.
- Relate aspects of religious and secular beliefs to individual experience, leading to enhanced mutual understandings.
- Develop an understanding that beliefs and the practice of beliefs can vary from culture to culture and individual to individual.

Our Core Values

At MPET, we have six core values and linked values. We teach these through assemblies, story time and interconnected within Learn Together and curriculum subjects e.g., sharing stories or poems in a reading or English lesson. We have a 'value of the term', which the children are encouraged to demonstrate and reflect upon throughout their everyday lives.

Our school's core values:					
Value of the term					
Term 1: Respect	Term 2: Kindness	Term 3: Courage	Term 4: Happiness	Term 5: Integrity	Term 6: Justice
Responsibility	Peace	Perseverance	Positivity	Honesty	Empathy

Linked values – these are interconnected to the term's core value and are explicitly referred to as part of core values teaching and learning during the term.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum

The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. When your child is in Reception, they follow EYFS.

Within the EYFS, the areas of learning are:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The National Curriculum

When your child is in Key Stage One and Two, they follow the National Curriculum.

Within the National Curriculum there are a range of subject areas including;

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Design Technology
- Computing
- Physical Education
- Modern Foreign Language

As your child moves through the school, the learning gradually becomes more formal. For more information about what each year group covers, visit our website

<https://www.mulberryparket.org.uk/our-curriculum/>

The School Day

8.40am	Gates open - Whole class Thrive session.
8.50am	Registration – Children must be in class by this time.
11:30am / 12pm / 12:15pm	EYFS and KS1 / LKS2 / UKS2 Lunch time
12:30pm / 1pm / 1:15pm	Afternoon activities
3.10pm	End of school day

Children can get anxious when brought into school late or collected late, so please remember it is important that you are on time. We will only release the child to someone if you have specifically authorised us to do this, so please keep us informed of any changes to pick-up routine. Late children will have to enter school by the front entrance and will have to wait for a member of staff to be available to take them to class.

Additional information

Uniform, Outdoor Learning and PE

There is no school uniform in Educate Together schools. We recommend comfortable, versatile clothing. The children will have plenty of opportunities to run, climb and jump so make sure their clothes let them.

Whilst we do not have a school uniform, we do have some guidelines for our community to follow to ensure that all rights are being respected, to ensure all children are safe and are able to access the full curriculum.



Clothing should be comfortable, easy for pupils to manage, appropriate for school and suitable for the weather.

On PE days, children should wear suitable loose-fitting clothing and appropriate footwear e.g. trainers.

- No necklaces or bracelets - only small stud earrings, which your child can remove independently for PE lessons
- No smart watches
- No open toed sandals
- No makeup or false nails

We value outdoor learning and the children will have free access to the outdoors. Your child will therefore need a waterproof coat every day. Please provide a pair of wellington boots that can be left in school.

We are an all-Weather School, so please consider:

- **Waterproof Jacket:** Stay dry during rain!
- **Warm Layers:** Keep cozy on chilly days.
- **Wellington Boots:** Perfect for wet weather.
- **Sun Hat:** Protect against UV rays on sunny days.
- **Gloves & Scarves:** Stay warm when it's cold.
- **Extra Socks:** Keep feet comfortable.

A book bag will be provided for all children who join our school.

Food and Drink

At MPET, we actively promote the importance of a healthy, balanced diet for all of our children.

School Dinners

Meals at MPET are prepared on site and all diets are catered for including halal, gluten free and vegetarian. Children will have a choice of hot meat, vegetarian or halal option or the cold salad bar baguette or wrap option.

School meals are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, as well as for those children in receipt of Free School Meals (you can ask the office for information about applying for Free School Meals). For children in Years 3 to 6, school dinners cost £2.70. School dinners must be booked via Arbor a week in advance by Fridays for the following week.

If packed lunches are brought to school they must provide a **healthy, nut free** lunch that follows our ETAT Packed Lunch Charter. (See website for more details).

Healthy Eating Policy

A fruit or vegetable snack will be provided each day for EYFS and KS1 children. Water will always be available. Children in KS2 may bring a snack for playtime. The only snacks allowed in school are:

- vegetables
- fruit (whole fruit only: dried fruit and processed dried fruit products, juice, smoothies and purees are not allowed)
- plain savoury crackers and breadsticks, with no added salt, sugar or fat.

All children may bring a reusable bottle filled with water only.

Milk is provided free of charge to all children under 5 so please sign up with Cool Milk via the website <https://www.coolmilk.com>. Once your child is 5 years old, Cool Milk will contact you to ask if you wish to continue to have milk, and there is a charge per term.

Medical

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child has a medical condition or allergy that we need to be aware of. If they need medication in school, you will be given a form to sign authorising us to administer it. **We will only administer medicine prescribed by a doctor.**

Should your child catch a contagious disease such as chicken pox, please let the office know immediately as it may be necessary to inform the whole class or school community. Your name will not be shared.

If a child vomits or has diarrhea, they must be kept at home for 48 hours from when they last vomited or had diarrhea to prevent infection of other children and staff.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

If you believe your child has special educational needs, please speak to your child's class teacher or Natasha (Assistant Head and SENCO). We need to know if any agencies are already providing support for your child. The inclusion of all children is a priority for us and we will make appropriate provision for all children where reasonably possible.

First Name Policy

It is school policy that all staff and children are addressed by their first names.

Travel to school

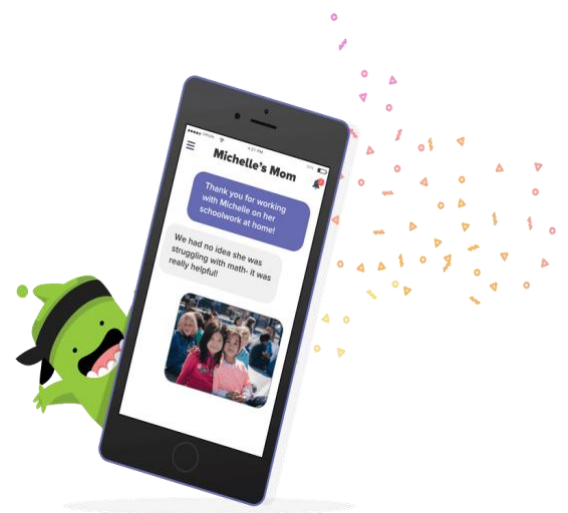
As a school, we promote Active Travel to and from school. There is no school parking on site and we aim to respect the local residents by limiting the number of cars on Mulberry Park. We encourage all children and their families to walk, scoot or cycle to school. There is bike and scooter parking within the school grounds for children. If this is not possible, parents, staff and visitors are encouraged to use public transport or to park their cars off of the Mulberry Park estate and walk part of the way to school.

Enrichment clubs

As a school we aim to offer a range of enrichment activities to all children. Staff voluntarily run free afterschool clubs, e.g. lego, gymnastics, gardening, outdoor games etc. There are also some paid clubs provided by external providers. These clubs change each term and are often oversubscribed.

Communication

As a school we are trying to work in a paperless manner. We communicate through various means throughout the year including face to face meetings, via email and predominantly via Class Dojo. Please make sure that you download this so that you receive all of our communications. We also communicate regularly to you via our website www.mulberrypark.t.org.uk. If you need any translations, please let us know.



Party invitations

In keeping with our ethos and to ensure that no child feels like an outsider, we do not distribute cards and invitations in school. We request that treats and cakes are not brought into the school to ensure that no-one is left out.

Home/School Partnership

We really value the importance of strong partnerships between school and home at

Educate Together, and we all would like your child to be enthusiastic and confident learners. We have an 'open-door' policy; if you ever have any questions or worries, please don't hesitate to come and talk to either your child's class teacher. There will also be formal opportunities throughout the school year at parents' evenings.

We are very keen for parents to get involved in the life of the school. Some ways of doing this are:

- Become a parent member in one of the working groups e.g. wildlife garden group
- Join the parents fund raising group
- Attend parent forums and parent information afternoon/evenings
- Volunteering in the classroom (e.g. listening to children read, sharing a skill, playing maths games etc.)

Parental agreement to Educate Together Principles

Our four Principles are essential to our school. We expect all parents choosing this school to understand that their child may not be excluded from any activity regardless of their culture, faith, gender, ethnicity, social class or specific needs.

Ideas of how to help your child at home

Children are expected to read at home every night and to practice spellings or times tables as set by the teacher. They will have a school reading book and also an individual log in to bug club, where there is a range of book for your child to access.

Teachers may set home learning activities for holiday periods, which children are welcome to do.

For more ideas, please visit the following pages of our website:

<https://www.mulberrypark.org.uk/parents-and-community/supporting-your-child-at-home/>

Friends of MPET

The Friends of MPET are a volunteer group of parents who work in partnership with the school to organise social and fundraising events throughout the year for people to come together and feel part of the MPET community as well as raise money for the school.

Their mission is to bring together parents, carers, children, staff and community members to foster a strong, inclusive and welcoming school community. We encourage active

involvement and fundraise to support projects that enrich the school and pupil experience.

For all the latest information and how to get involved, join our Friends of MPET WhatsApp group by clicking here, scanning the QR code below or emailing us with your number.

You can contact us at friendsofmpet@gmail.com
<https://www.mulberryparket.org.uk/parents-and-community/pta/?rejectcookies=1>



And finally...

We, at Mulberry Park Educate Together, look forward to many years with you and your child/children. Our community is best served by its members becoming fully and actively involved in the growth and development of this school.

Our aim is to have a safe and happy school, working always in partnership with you, to give your child the best and broadest education possible.

Sarah Phillips, Executive Headteacher and Laura Binns, Head of School

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School telephone:

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School website:

<http://www.mulberryparket.org.uk/>