



# Rowley Park Primary Academy

Focus on family • Insist on excellence • Do good as you go  
Embrace innovation • Seize success

# Welcome

Welcome to our school prospectus, which I hope gives you a flavour of what our school is like. Whether you are visiting as a Prospective Pupil, Parent, Teacher, Volunteer or Academy Councillor we hope to give you an insight into our school.

Our Academy is part of Victoria Academies Trust. The Victoria Academies Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust established on 1st January 2014. The Trust aims to build a family of stand-out schools who share a passion for powerful, immersive and creative learning.

At Rowley Park Primary Academy, we aim to provide all children with high-quality learning experiences that prepare learners for life beyond school, enabling children to make a positive contribution to the world in which we live. We believe children learn best when lessons are fun, practical and challenging.

We look forward to meeting you.

## **Mrs Kate Tewley**

Executive Headteacher



As Head of School at Rowley Park Academy, I look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school.

Having had the pleasure of being here for the last 12 years as a teacher, a member of SLT and now Head of School, I have seen the changes the Academy has brought about since conversion and I am dedicated to continuing the success and ensuring the children at Rowley Park are the best that they can be.

I, along with the brilliant staff at RPA, have a drive and passion to ensure that every child has an exciting, purposeful education filled with enjoyment and opportunity - I love to see the children coming in with a beaming smile and leaving happy at the end of the school day. We are committed to working in partnership with you and look forward to welcoming you into our school family.

## **Annika Beaumont**

Head of School



# Our Vision

We want RPA to be internationally recognised for creating passionate and resilient lifelong learners. We will inspire our children by insisting on excellence and will continually strive to inspire a culture of curiosity through an empowering, innovative curriculum.

# Our Values

We believe that Victoria Academies should be values-driven where leadership at all levels has a strong moral purpose. Taking inspiration from the Latin word FIDES ('to trust') we believe in five simple core values that underpin all that we do:

- Loyalty by..... **Focusing on family**
- Tenacity by..... **Insisting on excellence**
- Kindness by..... **Doing good as you go**
- Courage by..... **Embracing innovation**
- Brilliance by..... **Seizing success**

To find out more about our Vision and Values at RPA or for a copy of the school policy, please contact the school office.



# Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

EYFS at Rowley Park Academy consists of a 26 place Nursery and a 30 place Reception class, both run by qualified, highly experienced teachers and supported by experienced EYFS Teaching Assistants.

The EYFS curriculum at Rowley Park Primary Academy allows children to follow the learning and development outlined in the Early Years Outcomes document, taking into consideration children's own interests and encompassing a real purpose or outcome to their learning through play.

Children know, and are in many cases, involved in deciding what the outcome should be. The outcomes are always done for purpose, whilst their imagination is harnessed through a rich provision of role play, artistic and cultural experiences, underpinned by an emphasis on language development. It is through completing this outcome that children develop and apply their Characteristics of Effective Learning.

Nursery occupies a large indoor and outdoor provision. Children follow a mixture of small group time activities, adult-led activities and free-flow child chosen activities. We firmly believe in following the children's interests in their play.

Reception also follows a mix of group time, adult-led and free-flow activities both indoors and outdoors. Children take part in the daily Read, Write, Inc Phonics scheme as well as purposeful Literacy and Maths sessions. The rest of the Learning and Development follows the NICER challenge that the children are working on.





# In our recent OFSTED Inspection (April 2017), EYFS was graded **Outstanding**.

## Some quotes from the report:

"The learning environment in the early years is **stimulating and very well organised**. Children respond to, and respect, the equipment and facilities."

"The outdoor areas **provide a wealth of opportunities** including role-play, physical activities to develop coordination and balance, and creative, messy activities."

"Teachers and teaching assistants use assessments to accurately identify the experiences children need in order to **move their learning forward**."

"**The progress children make in lessons is strong**. The curriculum is adapted to suit children's interests."

"**The children are very well cared for** and nurtured so that they feel confident, curious and eager to join in activities."

"**The children's behaviour is excellent** and they show respect for each other."

To read our full Ofsted Report,  
please visit our website:  
[www.rowleyparkacademy.org.uk](http://www.rowleyparkacademy.org.uk)

  
**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider

# NICER Curriculum

We believe that pupils at Rowley Park Academy need to let RIP (Real, Immersive, Purposeful) with their learning!

Unless learning is full-on and immersive, pupils will not make the outstanding progress that we expect and demand of all of them to make.

Let RIP learning is at the heart of our NICER Curriculum.

Victoria Academies Trust's NICER Curriculum is built around a series of social enterprise learning challenges.

We asked children to tell us what they want to have experienced by the time they leave our school. They came up with a list of 50 and so we built the NICER curriculum around them. Whether it's riding on a donkey or stroking a reindeer, designing a castle or making pizza, being a knight for the day or writing your own TV show, the NICER curriculum will ensure that learning RIPS.

As a school we have a focused approach to the delivery of the core subjects of Maths, English, science and PE and ensuring that children achieve the highest standards. Children are able to take the skills developed in these subjects and utilize them within the context of the NICER Curriculum.

**If you would like to learn more about the NICER curriculum, please visit our website:** [www.rowleyparkacademy.org.uk](http://www.rowleyparkacademy.org.uk)

N

## Now

Ensuring the voice of the learner is heard through inspirational activities based on children's interests making links where possible with local and national current affairs and news.

I

## Independent

Children as digital learners employing a range of sophisticated thinking tools such as learning power, think hats, TASC wheels and CoRT 1.

C

## Creative

Let RIP learning that captures the imaginations of our children and staff through innovative use of the latest arts and digital technology.

E

## Enterprise

Enabling children to lead and create powerful social enterprises through a series of pioneering project-based learning challenges.

R

## Regional

Making learning real and relevant by giving it a local feel and flavour. It's about leaving a lasting legacy on the whole wide world.

# Forest School

Children at Rowley Park Academy get the opportunity to experience real, immersive and purposeful learning opportunities within weekly forest school sessions that encourage self-exploration through child-initiated experiences.

Your child will learn how to develop new skills, take risks and work as a team whilst growing in confidence and self-esteem.

Forest school is a holistic approach and provides opportunities for children to develop their communications and social skills. They will also develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually through the connections they make with nature and the forest environment.

Children thrive in the forest environment, developing a sense of community with their friends. They use their imagination to its full potential and explore the natural world around them; learning the importance of their environment and embrace the opportunities that surround them through activities such as: den building, tree climbing, cooking, using tools, making bridges, natural art work as well as child-initiated activities.



# Traditional Values and Excellent Behaviour

All staff at the Academy have very high expectations of behaviour. We believe that good behaviour is at the heart of a successful school.

Children at the Academy are taught how to manage their behaviour from an early age so that they can make the right choices. We adopt a zero tolerance approach to bullying.

All the children in the school are taught our simple school rules and they are aware of the consequences if they break them. Good behaviour is promoted with rewards, incentives and praise.

We believe that if children look smart, they think smart. Every child at the Academy is expected to wear school uniform.

**More details can be found on our website:**  
[www.rowleyparkacademy.org.uk](http://www.rowleyparkacademy.org.uk)







In April 2017 Rowley Park Academy was rated a **GOOD** School by Ofsted, with Outstanding in Leadership, EYFS and Personal Development and Welfare.

**Some quotes from the report:**

"The Headteacher provides **strong leadership**. Along with her school leadership team, she had brought about considerable improvements in teaching, pupils' achievement and behaviour."

"Teachers have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and ensure that **classrooms are calm and positive environments in which to learn.**"

"Relationships between pupils and staff are **very positive.**"

"**Pupils are confident learners** and pupils in all year groups demonstrate highly positive attitudes to learning."

"**Pupils take a pride in their work**, their school and themselves."

"The **rich and varied curriculum** is key to the effectiveness of the whole school."

To read our full Ofsted Report, please visit our website: [www.rowleyparkacademy.org.uk](http://www.rowleyparkacademy.org.uk)



# Wrap Around Care

## Breakfast Club & After School Club

We offer wrap around care for pupils both in the morning and after school, offering flexibility for parents.

Our breakfast club runs from 7:30am whilst our afternoon sessions take place from the end of the school day until 6:00pm. Both sessions provide food; either a breakfast or a light tea.

Sessions are planned for and delivered by our school staff and provide a range of activities to suit children of different ages and interests.

They operate weekdays, except for Bank Holidays and School Holidays.



### Facilities we provide:

- Quiet, chill out areas for reading.
- Crafting activities; drawing, painting, gluing etc. With a range of materials.
- Games area with a range of sit down board games, jigsaws, card games etc.
- Gaming area; Playstation, Wii.
- Child initiated, freeplay area dressing up, cars, roleplay.
- Construction activities; Lego, Duplo, K'Nex etc.
- Covered, outside play area; able to be used all year round.

### Food

We freshly prepare on-site, and include 'special' menus during the year.

**Breakfast:** Two choices of cereals, toast and a drink.

**After School:** A light tea such as sandwiches, pasta, toasties, etc.



# Victoria Academies Trust

## Trust us to create stand out schools

Victoria Academies is an established multi-academy trust created on 1st January 2014. It began as a single academy and is named after the founder school, Victoria Park in Smethwick. It became the first primary school in the local authority of Sandwell to convert to an academy in 2012. Almost two years later it became the lead school and sponsor within Victoria Academies Trust.

In September 2014, Rowley Park Academy became the first sponsored academy to join the trust. Within the first two years the school has been transformed and is now a high-performing school. All of our schools are within 45 minutes driving time from Victoria Park Academy. Victoria Academies Trust is currently a MAT with 9 academies within its family, who serve communities across a number of local authorities in the West Midlands, including Birmingham, Sandwell, Staffordshire, Walsall and Worcestershire. We passionately believe that all children should be provided with an education that enables them to flourish and succeed and that disadvantage should never be allowed to hold any child back.

### Visit the Trust website for more information:

[www.victoriaacademiestrust.org](http://www.victoriaacademiestrust.org)

In addition to our schools, we run an award-winning social enterprise called Ballot Street as well as a school-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) programme. Victoria Academies Teacher Training course develops 'standout' creative, innovative, passionate and determined teachers that make a difference to the lives of the children in our schools and local communities. Victoria Academies Teacher Training offers a practical and hands on approach to teacher training, providing a unique opportunity to train within the vibrant family of schools of the Trust.

### More information can be found on our website:

[www.victoriateach.org](http://www.victoriateach.org)



**Birchen Coppice**  
Primary Academy



**Devonshire**  
Infant Academy



**Devonshire**  
Junior Academy



**Fibbersley Park**  
Academy



**Poppyfield**  
Primary Academy



**Rowley Park**  
Primary Academy



**Victoria Park**  
Primary Academy





**Rowley Park**  
Primary Academy

**Executive Headteacher**

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