



Civitas Academy

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Welcome to Civitas Academy

We offer a warm welcome to you and your child and thank you for showing an interest in our Academy. We hope that you will find the information in this prospectus useful.

At Civitas Academy, part of the REAch2 Academy Trust, we are proud of the education we offer our children. We believe strongly that a great education is one of the most precious gifts a child can receive. Therefore, our committed staff and active Local Governing Bodies work tirelessly to provide a quality education for all the children in our Academies.

Our structures and policies are designed to maximise the learning potential of the time our children spend in school. We aim to make

our children's learning experiences varied and inclusive; raising standards, particularly in English and Mathematics, remains our main objective.

Although we place particular emphasis on the acquisition of basic skills, we are also developing great provision for sport and the performing arts.

Civitas Academy is a happy school, where the success of every child matters. Indeed, it is the children who make our Academy such a special place. We welcome visits from parents and carers. If you would like to meet us to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or take a look at our website.

We look forward to hearing from you.

For further information please email us at civitas@reach2.org
or visit www.civitas.academy

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Welcome to REAch2

(Raising Educational Achievement for Children)

The Cornerstone of REAch2 is a solid, unshakeable foundation, defined by exceptional teaching experiences and shared Touchstone values of learning, leadership, enjoyment, inclusion, inspiration, responsibility and integrity. These values are at the very core of the Trust, firmly embedded in all of our academies and embraced by our leaders, teachers, staff, parents and children alike.

Strong family values are a key component of the REAch2 vision. We believe that REAch2 is a family: connected by a common desire to learn from each other, share experiences and be mutually supportive across the entire academy community. Every school and every individual is included in this vision. We actively encourage collaboration - and work as a team to create and deliver the best possible educational experiences for every pupil within the REAch2 Trust.

visit www.reach2.org for more information



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About Civitas Academy

Our Aim

Our aim is to provide an excellent education for all of our children, helping them develop the confidence, skills, curiosity and understanding to grow and progress academically, socially and emotionally. We believe in educating the 'whole child', and our personalised approach to learning means that children are supported, challenged, stretched and inspired in a wide range of exciting learning opportunities through our broad, balanced and engaging curriculum. We want all of our children not just

to reach their potential but to exceed our expectations, be the best and 'dare to dream'. We are a highly inclusive school where everyone is equally valued. Our professional and supportive staff work closely with parents, families, governors, volunteers, outside agencies and the wider local community to bring about the best possible provision for our children.

Our school aims to express our school motto in every aspect of our work.

'Hand in Hand we Learn'

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Admissions

Children are admitted to our Academy in accordance with REAch2 Thames Valley Admissions policy.



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Organisation

Our Academy is organised into three key stages

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children in our Reception classes.

Key Stage 1 (KS1) — refers to children in Years 1 and 2.

Key Stage 2 (KS2) — children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Times of Sessions

Morning

Reception - 8.50am – 11.45pm

KS1 - 8.50am – 12.00pm

KS2 - 8.50am – 12.30pm

Afternoon

Reception and KS1 1.00pm – 3.15pm

KS2 - 1.30pm – 3.20pm

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The Curriculum

Structure and Organisation

EYFS

We aim to apply the best principles of early years education, encouraging positive attitudes to school and its routines. During their time in the early years, children have free access to learning areas both inside and outside. A variety of activities are on offer which are either child-initiated or adult-led.

In our Reception classes children develop social skills, learning how to work harmoniously together—taking turns, sharing and listening. Through a purposeful, well-planned and organised curriculum, children gain strong foundations in English, Mathematics, creative and physical skills, as well as nurturing their personal, social and emotional development. The children's development during this crucial stage underpins their future learning.

KS1 and KS2

In Years 1 to 6, English, Mathematics and Science are taught discretely, following national guidelines. Throughout KS1 and KS2, children enjoy focused, carefully planned core lessons, which reflect the emphasis placed on teaching the children reading, writing, Mathematics and investigative skills. Religious Education (RE) is also taught separately.

Other subject areas are predominantly covered in an integrated manner through themes or projects embracing particular focuses. These areas are: Computing and the foundation subjects of Music, Art, History, Geography, Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE), Design and Technology (D&T), Physical Education (PE) and Modern Foreign Languages (MFL).

Children work in a variety of ways: as a class, in groups, pairs or individually. The emphasis is always on active and meaningful involvement of children in their own learning.

PE is an important part of the curriculum; therefore, all children take part in regular physical exercise. To enable high quality coaching, pupils are required to bring the appropriate PE kit to school.

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is incorporated into PSHCE. Every effort is made to match the teaching and knowledge to the maturity of the children. We aim to help pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up, give them an elementary understanding of human reproduction and enable them to make informed choices about their health and environment, and to resist bullying.

The Academy is well resourced, enabling teachers to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. We continue to invest in Computing so that our pupils can learn using the most up-to-date technologies. Within our curriculum we aim to provide for the academic, personal and social development of every child.

Assessments

Assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning. Children's work is marked daily and subsequent lessons are adapted to ensure quality learning. Progress is continually monitored by teachers and pupils are given feedback and targets for improvement.

The children are given opportunities to evaluate and improve their work, either independently, in pairs or as a small group. In this way our children are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning.

Additional support for Children

We provide a range of targeted support in order to overcome barriers to learning. Additional support for children is achieved through appropriate assessment, setting personalised challenges and responding to individual needs. Staff work closely with parents to ensure the learning needs of all children are met.

Assemblies

Assemblies are an integral part of our Academy life. Each day the children come together to sing, celebrate good work and reflect. Parents do have a legal right to ask for their child to be withdrawn from religious activities, including collective worship.

Behaviour

At Civitas Academy the very highest standards of behaviour are expected. We will be working towards being a UNICEF Rights Respecting School, therefore all our children are taught to respect the rights of others by acting in a responsible manner and by showing consideration, courtesy and respect at all times. There is a balance of rewards and sanctions that are consistent throughout the Academy.

Attendance and Punctuality

Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential if children are to do well at school. Parents who ensure their children attend regularly and on time, demonstrate the importance

of school; as a result, their children tend to develop healthy attitudes to learning. We therefore insist that pupils are in school by 8.50am ready to start work. If a child is absent, a reason must be given in the form of a letter or telephone call. Apart from very exceptional circumstances, parents should not take children out of school during term time.

In such cases, prior permission must be obtained from the Academy

Uniform

Our uniform, worn by all the children, is a distinctive feature of Civitas Academy. We place an emphasis on maintaining high standards of dress and appearance because we believe it encourages the children to take pride in themselves and their Academy. We therefore ask parents to ensure that their children always wear the correct uniform and that it is clearly labelled. Children also need to wear the appropriate kit during PE lessons.



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Boys

- School jumper
- White shirt (Years 5 and 6)
- School Tie (Years 5 and 6)
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers or shorts
- School tie (Years 5 and 6)
- Plain grey/white/black socks
- Black shoes (No boots, trainers, or sandals to be worn)

Girls

- School jumper/cardigan
- White shirt (Years 5 and 6)
- School Tie (Years 5 and 6)
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore
- Green gingham summer dress
- Plain grey/white/black socks or tights
- Black shoes (No boots, trainers, high heels, open toed shoes or sandals to be worn)

Uniform can be ordered and purchased from:

**Stevensons, 11 – 12 Market Place,
Reading RG1 2EG, TEL: 0118 959
6462,**

Website : www.stevensons.co.uk

Please make sure all items of clothing

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are clearly labelled with your child's name – including coats, hats, gloves and scarves.

Hair should be neat in appearance without extreme of length or style. Hair should be natural in colour. It must be no shorter than a Grade 2 and without steps, lines or patterns. For reasons of health and safety, long hair must be tied back.

PE Kit

- Black shorts/track suit bottoms
- School House PE T-shirt
- Plain black hoodie
- Trainers

Earrings cannot be worn during PE, children will need to be able to remove





Homework

Homework enables children to practise aspects of their learning, extend and share school work with their families, pursue areas of interest and become independent learners. Children are given regular homework—more as they get older. All children are expected to read at home every night as well as learn spellings and times tables.

As pupils progress through the Academy, they are given regular assignments to complete.

Educational Visits

Educational visits that enrich our curriculum projects, are an important way for children to learn and experience activities beyond the classroom to other settings and contexts. Outdoor education is also an important part of the curriculum. In addition, there are opportunities for children to go on residential trips. Parents are asked to make a contribution towards the cost of trips. Without such support these activities could not take place.

Extra Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities are run to complement and extend our curriculum. However, they are dependent on staff availability and specialism. Activities occur before school, during the lunch break and after school.



Civitas Community

Pupil Voice

As we place our children at the centre of what we do, pupils are empowered to express their views and develop their leadership skills. Our Academy will develop a School Council that meet regularly to discuss a variety of issues. Through participating in School Council and other leadership roles, children can have real influence in helping to develop the ethos of Civitas Academy, its policies and practices.

Parental partnership

We believe that children learn best when parents and staff work closely together. When children are admitted to Civitas Academy, parents are asked to sign the Home School Agreement which clearly states the expectations of the child, parent and Academy. In order to build relationships based on mutual trust, support and cooperation, we emphasise the need for effective communication. As well as two parents' evenings, teachers are always happy to meet parents to discuss matters of concern as soon as they arise. Senior leaders are also available to discuss issues as and when they occur. If we are unable

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to resolve the problem, formal complaints procedures are in place. As an Academy, we regularly canvass the views of parents on a range of issues. Feedback from meetings, questionnaires and surveys help us to identify priorities for improvement.

Staff

All staff play an essential role in ensuring Civitas Academy is a safe, healthy and inspiring place for our children to learn. Most members of our teaching staff hold specific leadership responsibilities. We also work closely with outside agencies such as educational psychologists and occupational therapists as required.

Governors

Members of our Local Governing Body come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Typically, they are representatives of the local community, parents/carers and staff who bring a range of interests, knowledge and skills. Governors meet regularly to monitor the impact of the Academy's activities and consider priorities for improvement.

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The Wider Community

Our families represent many different nationalities, a fact which we celebrate through curricular and extra-curricular activities. These help the children to share and understand the diversity of customs and experiences throughout the world. We are always seeking ways to establish links with members of the local community and beyond, to enrich the learning of our pupils..

School Meals

The catering service offers well balanced meals which are cooked on the premises. Children can choose from a range of hot meals, jacket potato, salad and fruit. Parents who prefer to provide a healthy packed lunch, may do so.

Safety and Security

The safety of the children at school is our highest priority. We work closely with other agencies, sharing information where necessary, to ensure the safety of all pupils.

All entrances and exits to the school are secured during school hours. The only access into the school during the day is through the main entrance,

which has a constantly monitored entry system. All visitors and helpers are issued with a visitor's sticker and are required to sign in and out of the premises. All staff (including governors) and regular helpers in school have undergone criminal record checks.

Child Protection

We are a front line agency for child protection and take seriously our duty of care for all the children at our school. At Civitas Academy we have policies and procedures in place for handling any cause for concern that may arise. The designated child protection

officers and staff monitor children's welfare and report any concerns to them. Our Academy has a legal duty to refer cases causing concern to the relevant authorities.

And finally

We want Civitas Academy to be a place where past pupils come back to, where visitors comment on the positive and caring atmosphere, where we excel at innovation and set high personal expectation. We do hope that

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you have found this brochure helpful and that it gives you a taste of how life will be at Civitas Academy

