



Leigh Academy
Dartford

'OUTSTANDING IN ALL AREAS'

Ofsted, 2025

Prospectus

Determined | Persistent | Achievers

Leigh Academy Dartford is part of Leigh Academies Trust



Leigh Academies Trust is one of the country's largest and most-established multi-academy trusts operating across Kent, Medway and South East London. It contains primary, secondary and special academies and is highly inclusive and successful. Our mission is to deliver "education for a better world" by ensuring that young people in our academies have an excellent start in life regardless of their background or ability.

Our Values

We care -
about our pupils and their families through our human scale approach to education, our staff and their well-being and the world around us, driven by our high ideals and strong moral values.


We have boundless ambition -
to achieve excellence for all and create confident young adults with high levels of resilience and integrity.

We work together -
as one team because we are greater than the sum of our parts. We foster an enterprising culture through global collaboration with partners in business and education.


We keep getting better -
using our 'can-do' attitude and research informed approach to continuous improvement and innovation.



For admission enquiries telephone:
01322 224453 or email: info@dartford.latrust.org.uk



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Welcome

‘The reason I have such high respect for Leigh Academy Dartford is that the school treats everyone fairly and the teachers never give up on you, allowing you to be whoever you wish to be.’

Former Pupil

Determined Persistent Achievers

Welcome to Leigh Academy Dartford

We are a large three-form entry school with a split site (Infants and Nursery based at St Albans Road and Juniors based at York Road). We have an excellent, established nursery provision with committed, dedicated staff.

Leigh Academy Dartford is a welcoming, safe and happy place where everyone feels valued and is listened to. We aspire for all children to achieve their full potential in a stimulating environment that both nurtures and challenges them, enabling them to become independent and resilient learners.

We passionately believe in enabling all of our learners to become global citizens who care about their place in the world and the positive impact they can have on their local, national and international communities. We work within our local community to foster positive relationships and seek opportunities to enhance every learner's learning experience - both in the classroom and beyond.

I warmly invite you to explore our academy and meet our happy and determined young people. Come and be part of an academy who supports children to strive for success.

Miss R Roberts
Principal



Our MOTTO...

...underpins the values for all in the academy.

Determined Persistent Achievers

Learning to change the world

Our Nursery

Our Nursery offers both 30 hours and 15 hours' provision for children from 3 years old in the year before they start school.

It is attached to the main school at our infant site on St Albans Road. It has its own, safe outdoor play area. As it is part of the school, the children are able to enjoy the school facilities including the hall and the library.

Meeting individual needs of all children lies at the heart of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and we deliver personalised learning, development and care to help children get the best possible start in life. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum is planned in conjunction with the Primary Years Programme (PYP) for three and four year olds. This ensures a holistic approach that encompasses social, physical, emotional and cultural needs in addition to academic development.



Starting School in Reception Year

Do you want your child to study a diverse and globally- focused curriculum which will prepare them not only for their onwards educational journey but also for work in the wider world? Do you want them to learn to be effective communicators who make reasoned, ethical decisions and are principled so that they act with integrity and honesty? Then apply for a place at Leigh Academy Dartford.

It is a great idea to visit Leigh Academy Dartford on one of our open days.

You can apply for a primary school place in the autumn term after your child turns 4. At every key transition point, we ensure all children are prepared and emotionally ready for their next step.

You must apply for a primary school place through the www.kent.gov.uk website. You must apply for a Reception place, even if your child attends our linked Nursery.

School Curriculum

Our aim is to provide a curriculum that ensures every pupil, regardless of need or background, reaches their full potential and has a successful transition to their secondary setting. Alongside this, we aspire for all our pupils to be well-informed, globally aware young people. At Leigh Academy Dartford our curriculum uses the philosophy of the IB as the framework to underpin a breadth and depth of coverage to ensure it:

- Provides access for all;
- Promotes a positive attitude to learning;
- Encourages international-mindedness in our pupils;
- Challenges pupils to solve problems, show creativity and resourcefulness, and participate actively in our community;
- Supports the development of communication skills to encourage enquiry, understanding and to allow pupil reflection and expression; and
- Emphasises, through the learner profile, the development of the whole pupil – physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.

Our Curriculum has been carefully designed to enable the depth and breadth of the national curriculum to be explored through the transdisciplinary themes of the IB framework.

A key focus through our curriculum intent is to enrich all pupils' learning with co-curricular opportunities to enrich their cultural capital and life chances.

We are passionate about developing the cultural capital of our children and seek to explore as many exciting and inspiring activities alongside learning to prepare them for the next steps in life.

Every pupil in every year will work on six transdisciplinary themes, with the exception of reception and nursery who cover four. The themes are planned and delivered to ensure the national curriculum is taught vertically, horizontally and diagonally across the year in your child's age appropriate subjects. The themes are:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organise ourselves
- Sharing the planet

Each year team plans each theme to allow child agency and build opportunities for them to lead their learning in things that spark an interest. They have the ability to explore their subjects in depth as we seek to develop their inquiry skills and the ability to be reflective.

The concept is simple - an idea is chosen such as Romans. From that point we aim to teach the appropriate curriculum around the theme of Romans. Perhaps how to construct a fortress using maths and science, how Romans looked - using art to make shields or Roman togas, using food technology to explore a typical Roman diet, using maps and geography skills to track the explosion of the Roman Empire etc.

Breakfast Club

Our popular breakfast clubs run for pupils in reception to Year Six. For a daily fee, your child can arrive at the academy from 7.30am (pre-booked online) and enjoy a hearty, healthy breakfast alongside social time with their peers.





Rewards and Celebrations

Leigh Academy Dartford has a positive and inclusive approach to managing behaviour. We celebrate and reward our children using the Green to Go behaviour model and Class Dojo. Celebration assemblies, weekly rewards and 'Principal's Award of the Week' are some of the ways we seek to celebrate our children and the great things they do.

At Leigh Academy Dartford, our staff celebrate positive learning behaviours and students are encouraged to make responsible choices. This enables our students to be safe and happy while at school. We want all our students to develop into internationally-minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

At all times at Leigh Academy Dartford, we promote positive, collaborative behaviours through the use of praise and reward systems. These systems are based on celebrating examples of when the pupils demonstrate elements of the IB Learner Profile - identified by both staff and pupils. These include:

- Being effective communicators so that they can express themselves confidently and creatively;
- Demonstrating critical thinking skills which enable them to make reasoned, ethical decisions about situations;

Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle

Through our high quality PE curriculum we look to inspire pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically demanding activities. We strive to develop our pupils so that they are physically confident and every student in our school is strongly encouraged to live a healthy and active lifestyle.

A carefully constructed curriculum ensures a wide variety of different sports to engage and accommodate all individuals. This wealth of opportunity for pupils to compete in sport and other activities helps to build character and to embed values such as fairness and respect.

- Being curious and inquiring in order to gain new knowledge;
- Acting with integrity and honesty in all situations;
- Being open-minded and appreciating their own cultures and histories as well as their peers';
- Showing empathy, compassion and respect;
- Taking risks in their learning by positively approaching uncertainty with forethought and determination;
- Caring for themselves, promoting their own well-being and that of others; and
- Reflecting on their own ideas and experiences at all times.

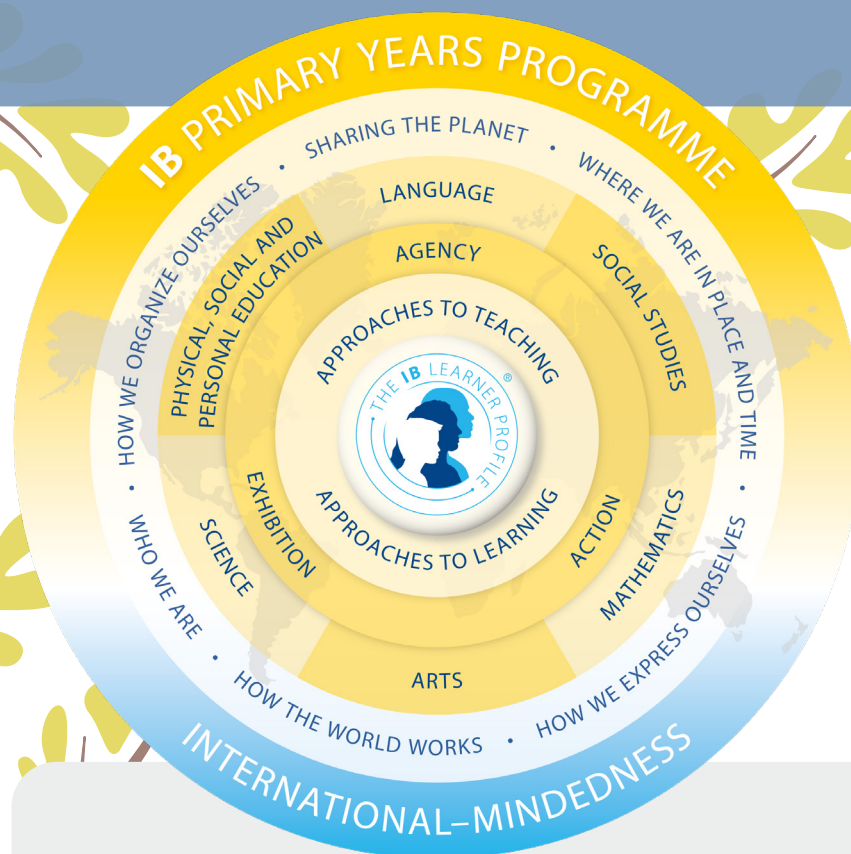
At Leigh Academy Dartford, we use Accelerated Reader (AR) to support, monitor and challenge our pupils to make the best reading progress possible. Children are rewarded each term for the amount of reading they do, as well as being entered into a raffle to win further incentives at the end of the term.

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme



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The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is designed for pupils aged 3 to 12 and is one of four programmes offered by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO).



The PYP focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside. It is a framework guided by six transdisciplinary themes of global significance, explored using knowledge and skills derived from six subject areas, as well as transdisciplinary skills, with a powerful emphasis on inquiry.

The PYP is flexible enough to accommodate the demands of the National Curriculum as this is the curriculum that Leigh Academy Dartford will follow. The PYP:

- Allows integrated development of cognitive and affective skills;
- Enables us to develop a curriculum appropriate to meet pupils learning needs;
- Develops autonomous and critical learners;
- Content is chosen by academies but is delivered within a concept driven curriculum to bring coherence across subjects; and
- Assessment drives learning and teaching positively.

Leigh Academy Dartford is an IB World School for the Primary Years Programme. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Leigh Academy Dartford believes is important for our students.

Inclusion

We believe in educating the whole child and the many facets that involves. We have two dedicated Family Liaison officers who work with our families to help all of our children access school and where necessary, have access to extra support. Our FLO team have established and positive links with many external agencies and community support groups who may be able to help families in times of need or when they require additional support.

Our FLOs sit inside our Inclusion team, led by our SENCO. This team meets regularly and ensures we have the 'full picture' of every child.

The team review our SEN provision which is delivered primarily through Quality First Teaching. This approach allows for all children to be catered for within their classroom. Where necessary, our learning support assistants will help deliver timely interventions to ensure progress.

In some cases, extra support will be required. We are able to not only access local authority support but also the expertise and support from our Trust colleagues.

Our inclusion team works tirelessly to try and meet all of our learner needs. We are extremely lucky at Leigh Academy Dartford to have such an experienced and knowledgeable inclusion team.

Governors

Being part of Leigh Academies Trust enables us to have a model of excellence for governance. As a primary working in North west Kent, we form part of the larger Leigh Academy board. At a local level, we have a dedicated team of governors, representing all walks of life, who form our Development group. This group provides healthy challenge and support to enable our academy to move forward.

Community Links

Encouraging our children at Leigh Academy Dartford to help others teaches them to have a sense of connection and begin to feel part of and care about their immediate and wider community. Having this connection can play a vital part in developing moral reasoning which helps us make better decisions as we grow into young adults.

We have made strong links with local community group Dartford Deeds Not Words Foundation who co-ordinate donations for local causes.

Many of our Leigh Academy Dartford families regularly attend the St Albans Church Community Cafe and their family events. Our children actively support many local, national and international charities.



Academy Council

As an academy, we value the thoughts, ideas and opinions of all our children and the Academy Council is one way of ensuring their voices are heard and have an impact on the development and daily life of Leigh Academy Dartford.

Further to this, we aim to make our children active global citizens who show a passion for making changes, not only in their school community, but also within the wider global community. Becoming a member of the Academy Council will help children to continue to develop the key learner profile attributes associated with the IB, making them balanced, open-minded communicators who are caring and reflective.

The Academy Council is chosen every year by pupils in a democratic vote in September. The Academy Council plays an active part in the life of the academy. They meet regularly to discuss ideas to improve school life. The Academy Council has a Chair and Vice Chair who write agendas and compile minutes.

The Academy Council have the opportunity to lead Academy assemblies to inform pupils of their plans and what they have achieved. They are also ambassadors for the Academy. They provide teachers with feedback through surveys and discussions on curriculum developments.

Beyond the Classroom

At Leigh Academy Dartford, we recognise that to enable our pupils to be globally minded and active in the world around them, learning must include a breadth of authentic experiences. Often, this will take learning outside of the classroom. Dartford is a diverse community to be part of and many opportunities are available as we are situated so closely to London. We want our children to be aware of the cultural opportunities Dartford offers them and at all times explore diversity and pursue new interests and ideas keenly.

We have developed a breadth of opportunities for your child to engage with to help develop their character and their understanding of the world around them.

We offer regular opportunities to take part in performances, trips and visits, themed events, pupil responsibility roles, visitors and after school clubs.



Determined Persistent Achievers

Careers & Work-related Education

Leigh Academy Dartford recognises the importance of developing lifelong learners who are prepared to enter the global community. Through careful curriculum planning, learners are exposed to a range of careers and professionals from Nursery to Year 6.

Our students explore links to careers and apply their learning to real-life contexts during our IB Primary Years Programme curriculum. Staff facilitate and encourage high aspirations and ambitions for all our learners, supporting them in becoming Determined, Persistent Achievers who are Learning to Change the World.

We use current research into careers, education and employment to inform our careers related learning strategy. We ensure that staff, learners and families have access to high quality resources both in and out of school.

Investors in Careers - full accreditation!

After a robust validating process, Leigh Academy Dartford has achieved the Investor in Careers Award which fully incorporates the Gatsby Benchmarks. This is an excellent achievement and recognises the quality and breadth of our careers provision.

We are one of very few primary schools to achieve this – well done to the staff in ensuring our children have high aspirations and goals. A careers programme that opens the world of opportunity!



Raising Aspirations

At Leigh Academy Dartford we provide extensive opportunities for our pupils to develop their talents and interests. Last year working with other IB World schools - both primary and our sister secondary academy - The Leigh Academy, pupils participated in an event which enabled them to enhance their creative thinking and team working skills. As a result of these experiences, our aim is that our pupils acquire the skills and attributes to become the best version of themselves and achieve in their future ambitions. Our motto is Determined, Persistent, Achievers - learning to change the world!

Leigh Academy Dartford has been successful in achieving the Investor in Careers award.

Working Together

We recognise the importance of working positively with our parents and community. We ensure there are various opportunities to discuss your child's learning and engage with our school community.

We promote our termly newsletter and parents' forum. We have bi-annual parent consultation evenings. We utilise Class Dojo, an online platform, as a tool to help celebrate success and share your child's journey. We also use the power of Facebook to share news and upcoming events.

We invite parents to attend short engagement sessions where they can pop in and see books and share their child's work with them in their classroom and we love to see parents offer to volunteer alongside their children and friends.



'Leigh Academy Dartford
is a very special school
as it gives pupils the
support and knowledge
to succeed.'

Former Pupil



We hope you've enjoyed reading through our Primary
prospectus and we can't wait to hear from you!
e: info@dartford.latrust.org.uk



Determined
Persistent
Achievers



Leigh Academy
Dartford

Further INFORMATION

Please visit our academy website

[Leigh Academy Dartford](#)

Apply for a place at Leigh Academy Dartford

To apply now, visit this link

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places>



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Determined | Persistent | Achievers



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