



ROBSACK WOOD
PRIMARY
ACADEMY



University of Brighton

Academies Trust



PROSPECTUS



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We are thrilled with our daughter's progress since starting in September. She has settled into school so well and made lots of new friends. The teachers and support staff have been fantastic and we are really happy that we chose this school."

Parent



We like it when we have new pupils because everyone works together to make them feel welcome."

Pupil

National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



**ROBSACK WOOD LEADS THE EAST SUSSEX
TEACHER TRAINING PARTNERSHIP FOR
INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING**



Executive Principal, Caroline Thayre and pupils

WELCOME

Selecting a school for your child's education can be complex and is one of the most important decisions a parent makes. The school you choose in the early years of your child's education has a huge impact on their future successes and happiness.

Robsack Wood is an exciting, innovative and welcoming academy where children from 3 months to 11 years old flourish in a safe and stimulating environment. We create a powerful learning culture which focuses on children having high aspirations thus achieving their full potential.

The Academy has impressive facilities which ensure our pupils are able to learn in exceptional environments which promote creativity and motivation. Outdoor learning, Forest Schools, an Early Years Village approach and Extended Schools are central to the learning ethos of Robsack Wood.

At Robsack Wood we are incredibly proud of all our pupils and their achievements and we urge you to come and see us in action to find out more.

Caroline Thayre
Executive Principal

Alice Pascoe-Hale
Principal

Achieving excellence together

Robsack Wood Primary Academy is part of the University of Brighton Academies Trust's network of 15 infant, primary and secondary academies, located across Sussex.

We believe that education transforms lives. Enriched by the University of Brighton's education expertise and our experience working with academy schools for almost 10 years, we want to ensure that our 7,500 pupils are inspired to meet their potential and develop a passion for lifelong learning.

It is important to us that our academies have a positive impact on their local communities and that parents and carers are actively engaged with their child's learning. We look forward to welcoming your family to Robsack Wood Primary Academy as we support each other – and your child – to excel.



Dr John Smith
Chief Executive
University of Brighton
Academies Trust



OUR VISION AND VALUES

'Where children come first and every child succeeds'

We seek to promote excellence, personal achievement and the realisation of each child's belief in their potential through diverse and stimulating experiences which are appropriate to the needs of every pupil.

Robsack Wood is a place where children develop a lifelong love of learning and thrive through a nurturing environment, centred on independence and self-motivation.



I like the Academy values because they help us in school"

Pupil

Our values are:

**Respect
Kindness
Honesty
Courage
Determination**



Everyone at Robsack Wood is really kind and friendly.
I love coming to school"

Pupil



CURRICULUM AND LEARNING

At Robsack Wood we believe that the curriculum should inspire a child's lifelong love of learning. We focus on offering pupils new experiences which are tailored to their interests, in a creative and engaging environment, where they are challenged to succeed.

Pupils are encouraged to develop a collaborative approach to their learning which supports the development of high-quality relationships, as well as respect, tolerance and consideration of others.

We use our local environment to enhance our curriculum further and value the use of educational visits to develop pupils' local awareness.

At Robsack Wood, we take great pride in offering a wide range of opportunities through enrichment activities, capturing the imagination of all pupils. These include an active pupil voice, learning ambassadors, business ambassadors, peer mediators, sports leaders, extra-curricular clubs and activities, competitive sports teams and additional music lessons. We also arrange residential visits for Year 6 pupils and swimming lessons for Year 4 pupils.

We believe that children thrive and learn best when their parents and carers have a strong relationship with their school. For this reason, parents and carers are welcomed into our classrooms on a regular basis to celebrate their child's successes and share their learning journey.

To enable this partnership approach and ensure effective communication we use the following methods:

- website, ParentPay and other social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter
- weekly 'Dear Parents' updates for all year groups
- termly class newsletters and weekly news updates
- termly celebration afternoons and activity days
- parent consultation meetings
- class and year group assemblies
- weekly achievement awards.

We have a dedicated space for celebrating pupils' creativity in dance, drama and music. The Academy has excellent facilities which include field access for playtime and lunchtime and a Multi Use Games Area.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS

BREAKFAST BUDDIES

Breakfast Buddies offers a healthy and nutritious breakfast to pupils before the academic day starts. Breakfast Buddies is open from 7:45am during term time.

We provide a selection of cereals, toast, fruit, yoghurt and juices. There are also daily specials available which include scrambled egg, baked beans, porridge and bagels, to name but a few.

During the session there are a range of fun and stimulating activities available to suit pupils' needs. There are opportunities for practitioners to support pupils with home learning, spellings and reading.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMME

The aim of the National School Breakfast Programme is to ensure no child starts the school day too hungry to learn. Funding for the programme comes from the Department for Education and is being delivered by a partnership of two charities, Family Action and Magic Breakfast.

As part of the initiative, at Robsack Wood we run a free Bagel Bar from 8.30am until 8.55am which is available to all pupils.

ROBSACK RASCALS

Robsack Rascals offers childcare during term time Monday–Friday from the end of the Academy day to 6pm. We offer supervised, structured activities for children that engage their individual interests. This session includes a choice of snacks, served as tea.



SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

At Robsack Wood we believe that all pupils can achieve highly. To support pupils with additional needs we have a dedicated inclusion team who hold various areas of expertise. As part of this team, we have the following highly skilled practitioners who offer a range of interventions:

- Speech and Language Therapist and Therapy Assistant
- Nurture Practitioners
- Inclusion Lead Teaching Assistants.

Within all areas of the Academy, we run the following interventions:

- fine motor skills interventions
- gross motor skills interventions
- phonics interventions
- Speech and Language Therapy
- KS1 and KS2 Nurture Class
- therapeutic art interventions
- supported indoor playtime and lunch club.

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) is responsible for managing and co-ordinating the support for pupils with special educational needs, including those who have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. They also provide professional guidance to Academy staff and work closely with parents/carers and other services that provide for pupils in the Academy.

We use assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious. We deliver high-quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised and meets the individual needs of the majority of pupils.

Some pupils need educational provision that is additional to or different from this and we endeavour to ensure that such provision is made for those who need it.

Our key aim is to help all pupils – including those with special educational needs and disabilities – to achieve their very best and become successful, well-rounded individuals. We believe that all pupils should have high quality teaching, adjusted to meet their individual needs.

We have dedicated spaces for small group and 1:1 work to take place. All support is tailored to the individual needs of each unique pupil to enable them to achieve their potential and achieve highly.



FOREST SCHOOL AND OUTDOOR LEARNING

Our Forest School offers the opportunity to engage with the rich natural diversity of our woodland environment to help build confidence, sensitivity, resilience and curiosity. Pupils partake in a range of activities within a safe environment, such as identifying tree, plant and animal species; using tools; making fires and building shelters.

We believe in using the outdoor environment, including our extensive grounds and woodland, to enhance learning and support the curriculum. Through the use of the outdoors, we support the development of the whole child, focussing on teamwork skills as well as developing confidence and self-esteem.

We also have animals on site, which the children care for and which are used to teach life skills and enable them to understand the importance of regular care. This also supports curriculum areas such as the circle of life.



Forest School is a chance to be free and you learn so much about nature, we have many exciting learning environments."

Pupil



EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE AND NURSERY

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) ensures children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children are ready for school. It also stimulates the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The foundation stage at Robsack Wood is comprised of our Nursery and Reception class provision. We are proud to offer an Early Years Village which is a campus approach to education for all children under five years old. Our staff team consists of Nursery Practitioners, Teaching Assistants and Qualified Teachers, all with a special interest in working with this unique age group. We work closely together to ensure a consistency of approach and smooth transitions throughout the stage.

We learn together in a purpose-built, well-appointed space with high-quality indoor and outdoor learning environments. We are enjoying the bespoke building now incorporated into our Early Years Village.

THE NURSERY

We have a fully Ofsted Registered Nursery which is open 50 weeks of the year from 7.45am – 6.00pm every day. We offer an extensive range of childcare facilities for children aged 3 months to 5 years. We are committed to creating a welcoming and safe environment where children are well cared for and their individual needs are supported. This is supported by a Co-Key Person system which promotes warm relationships and clear communication.

Our setting operates a free flow approach across the age phases where children are able to access the indoor and outdoor environments alongside structured learning experiences in small groups. These include music and movement in 'Wiggle and Rhyme Time' and Forest School. We also offer parent and child groups within our setting.

In our Reception classes the prime and specific areas of the framework continue to be evident in our provision through a mix of child-initiated learning and adult-led or supported experiences. There is a great emphasis on the teaching of systematic phonics through daily letters and sounds to enable all children to read and write to a high standard. We encourage children to think critically and explore the environment. We foster high levels of independence in the children so they can direct their own levels of learning and development.

GOVERNANCE AND OUR SPONSOR

Our governance arrangements are set by the University of Brighton Academies Trust.

LOCAL BOARD

We have a Local Board that contributes to our Academy's vision and future strategy. It is responsible for ensuring that our Academy maintains strong community links and effective communication with all stakeholders including parents and carers. It is also responsible for monitoring student wellbeing, admissions, complaints and concerns.

Local Boards include individuals from the community, including parents and carers. They are accountable to the Trust's Board of Trustees.

Visit www.brightonacademiestrust.org.uk/locallink for information on volunteering as a Local Board member.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees are responsible for determining the Trust's strategic direction, including overarching responsibility for the three core functions: the Trust's vision, educational standards and financial performance.

Trustees are also responsible for ensuring the Trust complies with charity and company law, as well as its funding agreement with the Secretary of State. The Board of Trustees includes representatives from the Trust's sponsor and local people with a wide range of expertise.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON ACADEMIES TRUST

The University of Brighton Academies Trust is a network of 15 academies in Sussex all supporting each other – and their pupils – to excel. It is a multi-academy trust and a not-for-profit charitable company limited by guarantee.

The University of Brighton is the Trust's sponsor. The University's commitment to improving educational opportunities by supporting academies began in 2008 in Hastings and St Leonards, and has since developed to include academies in East and West Sussex.

Visit: www.brightonacademiestrust.org.uk

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

The University of Brighton is a leading provider of higher education in the south east. It has 21,000 students, 2,600 staff on four campuses across Sussex and runs 500 undergraduate and postgraduate courses including teacher training, medicine, mathematics, computing, engineering and fashion.

Its School of Education has an 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted for all of its early years, primary and secondary teacher training and it is ranked in the top ten universities for education courses in England in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019 and in the top 20 in the Guardian University League Tables 2020.

Partnership working is central to the University's mission and it has a deep commitment to helping to shape the futures and realise the potential of young people across the region.

Visit: www.brighton.ac.uk

A WORD FROM THE TRUST

We work collaboratively to help everyone connected to our academies achieve excellence.

By working together and sharing, insights and best practice, our academies support each other to improve. We value our staff, investing in their training and development at all stages of their careers.

It is important to us that our academies have a positive impact on their communities and that pupils understand the role they can play in the wider world. We also work to ensure parents and carers are actively engaged in their child's learning.

WE VALUE EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY AND INNOVATION

We want **excellence** for our pupils and their families, our staff, and our academies' communities. We believe that education transforms lives, which is why each of our academies has a rich curriculum to ensure that pupils meet their potential and are inspired to continue learning.

We work with **integrity**. We recognise the unique character of each of our academies, and tailor the support we provide to suit the individual academy and its pupils. We respect all cultures and beliefs, and believe in honesty and openness.

Innovation is key. We constantly strive to improve. Our pupils' experience is enriched by the contribution of the University of Brighton and its School of Education. Our school improvement framework is informed by best practice and creative approaches.

ADMISSIONS

Robsack Wood Primary Academy will consider all applications for places.

Our admissions policy, which includes our admissions numbers and oversubscription criteria (which are applied when there are more applications than places) is available on our website:

www.robsackwoodprimaryacademy.org.uk/statutory/admissions

NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND

Most pupils join in Reception and applications for this year group will be made in accordance with East Sussex County Council's coordinated admissions arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form provided and administered by East Sussex County Council's Admissions Team.

A brochure describing the primary admissions procedure and application forms are available from East Sussex County Council or online at: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/admissions. You can make your application online or by returning the completed form to the Schools Admissions Team at the county council.

IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

The University of Brighton Academies Trust is responsible for the allocation of places outside the normal admissions round (including Years 1–6, and application to join the academy part way through the Reception Year). The administration of these applications is carried out by East Sussex County Council on behalf of the Trust. Details of these arrangements are posted on the Academy's website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Admissions Team at East Sussex County Council by email on admissions@eastsussex.gov.uk or phone 0300 3309472 between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday.

For information on Nursery Admissions, please look at the website.





ENQUIRIES

If you require more details about our Academy please look at our website and make contact to arrange a visit.

CONTACT DETAILS

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www.robsackwoodprimaryacademy.org.uk



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