

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE



MEON
JUNIOR SCHOOL

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RECEPTION



WELCOME TO MEON JUNIOR SCHOOL

We are very excited to welcome you to one of our Portsmouth Thinking School Academies.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) is a non-profit making charitable trust that has successfully grown over the past few years. The lead academy is the Rochester Grammar School which is not only an outstanding school but has a rich history and inspiring reputation as one of the country's leading grammar schools.

As TSAT has grown our ambition of what we expect to achieve has grown with us. From the outset we have been a cross phase Academy Trust and our success is due to our excellent understanding of thinking, learning and outstanding teaching.

We believe our greatest asset is our children and young people and we are proud of their many achievements and their personal growth. Our pupils develop into responsible, happy, and confident young people.

Through the high quality of education, they receive and the support and care from home and school working together, they will have the best life chances possible.

We believe that children only thrive when they are happy and feel safe in their environment.

Therefore, all our schools are dedicated to ensuring;

- There are high expectations for every child
- Every lesson matters therefore they should be exciting and motivate children to think and learn
- Every child is treated as an individual and with dignity
- Children learn to play and learn together understanding moral values of mutual respect, tolerance, and personal responsibility

I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of Meon Junior School and would like to welcome you and your child to our school. Meon Junior School is a friendly school where children are taught by hardworking staff and are exposed to learning experiences in which children can flourish, become confident and capable students who are well prepared for life in modern Britain. We look forward to working in partnership with you during your child's time at Meon Junior School.



Sara Paine
Headteacher

WHAT IS A THINKING SCHOOL?

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, is a family of schools that work together to “transform the life chances” of all our children and young people. We share a common mission to nurture successful young people who are confident and can think and act independently.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, Meon Junior School takes pride in the unique approach we take to education: we provide our children with the skills and tools they need to think in a variety of ways and become lifelong learners. We believe that the best way to transform the life chances of our young people and help them achieve their aspirations is by shaping their minds, attitudes and habits through a framework of cognitive education that enables them to become the masters of their own destiny.

Our pupils are equipped with a bank of Thinking Tools designed to prepare them for a range of scenarios, dilemmas, and circumstances that they may face in life as part of modern society. The use of these Tools in our curriculum is supported by scientific and metacognitive research, and pupils are encouraged to apply their tools independently and use them to unlock new ideas. Our Thinking Tools include Thinking Maps, De Bono's Thinking Hats and Art Costa's Habits of Mind. These tools are used consistently across all areas of our curriculum and support our children tremendously in their learning and personal growth.

The concept of 'Being your Best Self' is also at the heart of our approach to learning at Meon Junior School as part of our Thinking School ethos. Children are encouraged to strive to be and achieve their best and are given multiple opportunities to reflect on their learning and work on their personal development.





OUR CURRICULUM

Our aim is to immerse the children in a curriculum that is exciting, creative and relevant. High standards in English and Mathematics, are vital in our school along with a strong emphasis on cross curricular learning opportunities.



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Children will be able to apply the knowledge and skills learned in one subject in a range of contexts which will reinforce their learning and increase their understanding, independence, confidence, and love of learning.

National Curriculum

Your child will gain a range of knowledge and skills, following the National Curriculum, in English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art and Design, Design Technology, Religious Education, Music, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Emotional Education.



Thinking Skills

Our curriculum promotes cognitive education and thinking skills by providing our children with a range of tools and techniques to structure their thoughts. Thinking maps are embedded within our curriculum, used within pastoral work and help with decision making at different levels throughout the school. We are also currently developing other thinking tools to further embed these skills.

READING AT MEON JUNIOR SCHOOL

At Meon Junior School we have a continued commitment to high standards in reading. We promote reading in many different ways and in particular place a great emphasis on reading for enjoyment. We use Accelerated Reader to support children's love of reading for pleasure and understanding.

Children choose books at an appropriate level and read them at their own pace. When finished, they take part in a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indicator that your child has understood what has been read.

How are parents involved?

As parents, you will be able to be fully involved by logging on at home to:

- See your child's progress towards their reading goal
- Review results on the quizzes
- View the number of books your child has read
- Conduct book searches using Accelerated Reader bookfinder





SCHOOL CLUBS

At Meon Junior School we attach great value to providing the children with as wide a range of extra-curricular activities as possible, including a variety of sports clubs, food technology, karate and gardening.

To help the children enjoy their lunchtimes at school a range of activities are offered. These include:-

- Access to the school library, where children can choose and read books
- Sports coaching
- ICT Club
- Eco Warriors



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We welcome parents into school as often as we can to be involved in their child's learning and to attend various events during the academic year.

There are regular opportunities throughout the year for parents to meet with staff to review their child's progress and a detailed written report will be provided half way through the year.

We pride ourselves on being very approachable and are always keen to talk about any concerns you might have.

We have an open-door policy, so if you have any queries about your child's education, please make an appointment to see the class teacher.



ALL THROUGH EDUCATION AT THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST



In Portsmouth, we have created a unique offer for parents; the chance for your child to experience an 'all through' educational journey where they stay with the same family of schools.

We have a number of infant/junior and all-through primaries in the city and our secondary school – The Portsmouth Academy. Each of our schools has adapted their admissions policies so that parents get a priority preference, when applying for a place in another thinking school.

To accommodate children in the primary phase carrying their journey on, we changed The Portsmouth Academy into a co-educational school and increased the number of places in Year 7 from 200 to 250, investing millions into new facilities to support these changes.

All-through education has many potential benefits for your child. First and foremost, our multi-academy Trust does have a shared approach to teaching children, a language of learning that is taught and then built upon. This consistency helps to accelerate children's progress as they understand what to do, and how to do it. Indeed, developing metacognition right from the early years has been shown to have a massive effect on young people's learning capacity. In addition, the familiarity is reassuring and helps make changing schools easier.

Secondly, our teachers and leaders work really closely together. This means we can design a curriculum that builds on what children already know. Our experienced Headteachers work very closely together to identify and implement strategies that we know will make a massive difference to children's progress in school, confidence and well-being. We are innovative and forward-thinking and work with the local authority to both share our good practice, and also to learn from others beyond our Multi-Academy Trust.

Children see us moving between schools and the continuation of our relationships with them helps them to feel a sense of belonging, security and of being looked after.



Natalie Sheppard
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