

Gretton Primary



Academy

STRIVING
• TO BE •
Better
EVERY DAY

A valued member of the

Brooke Weston Trust



Welcome

Gretton is a small village school which has a strong family feel. We have fantastic children and wonderfully supportive parents who enjoy getting involved with the life of the school...



We elected to become an academy and joined the Brooke Weston Trust in 2011. As such, we now benefit from being part of a larger, extremely successful academic organisation and have access to facilities and opportunities beyond our normal scope, without losing our village identity.

The school works closely with other groups in the village to make sure that we are at the heart of the community. We have good links with other primary schools in the area and work with them to ensure that our small school enjoys some of the benefits of larger schools while maintaining a unique family nature.

Our fantastic teaching team delivers a creative curriculum that inspires a love of learning in our children. The school offers a wide range of opportunities beyond the academic areas of the curriculum. Pupils enjoy many sporting competitions, support the community through fund raising activities and enjoy residential visits as they get older.

Children at Gretton Primary Academy benefit from the outstanding teaching practice of our team, alongside our welcoming open door policy, in which parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns with their child's teacher on an informal basis. We believe that all children are individuals and every single child has their own strengths that we help them to develop.

As such, all children are valued and all efforts are celebrated, with the result that our children grow into confident individuals who value their own worth and are confident to go out into the world. Our curriculum aims to develop children as self-motivated, independent learners.

Gretton Primary Academy is committed to serving our community. We promote British Values while recognising the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom.

The school accepts admissions from all those entitled to an education under British law, including pupils of all faiths or none. It follows the policies outlined by the Brooke Weston Trust regarding equal opportunities, which guarantee that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. It seeks to serve all.

Jane MacDonald,
Principal

Aims of our school

In consultation with teaching staff, Governors and pupils we have formulated our Vision, Values and Aims to reflect the school as it is today and our aspirations for the future.

- To put the children at the centre of everything we do
- To build children's self-belief, self-esteem and self-confidence so that they can hold their heads up high
- To notice, value and cherish all our pupils
- To have high aspirations and expectations in everything we do
- To push towards high academic achievement and ensure that children reach their full potential
- To foster trusting and collaborative relationships with parents and the community
- To value ourselves and others around us
- To inspire a love of learning
- To encourage children to strive to achieve their best and to flourish
- To celebrate success so that children are proud of their achievements
- To provide a creative curriculum which motivates, challenges and inspires children
- To develop independent learners and lively enquiring minds
- To provide a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment
- To encourage children to lead a healthy and active lifestyle

Our school values

Walter the reading dog



Our values help us grow and become stronger:

- Kindness
- Co-operation
- Respect
- Perseverance
- Ambition
- Sportsmanship
- Pride
- Honesty
- Courage
- Responsibility

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The mission of the Trust is 'to transform educational performance in the communities where we work, to improve student achievement by removing the barriers to learning and providing opportunities for personal development.'

BWT is a family of schools, each with its own unique character. However, we all share a culture of high expectations and ambition for all – this is 'The BWT Way'.

Our schools are based in Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire, all of which regularly collaborate with each other to drive towards this ambition. This means that staff and pupils from across BWT work together to support each other, share best practice and try new ideas.

Over each academic year there are many opportunities for pupils from all our schools to meet, compete and celebrate success together.

Opportunities at our school



To help realise our aims and to secure the best possible outcomes for our pupils we offer a rich and varied curriculum.

We take part in a variety of competitions and events including many interschool competitions. We offer music lessons in drums, piano, woodwind and brass. We include exciting enterprise activities within the curriculum and all classes have their own enterprise pot of money where they can choose to spend any profits on their class, school or a charity. Enterprise projects really capture the children's imagination and give them an enthusiasm for learning the skills needed to carry them out. The academy runs a variety of sports, creative and academic clubs that the children are able to attend.

We value the importance of pupil's voice and have regular "Snack and Chat" sessions for the children to discuss their learning. Our older children are school ambassadors, reading leaders, buddies or servers at lunchtime. We have a school council and sports crew who encourage their fellow peers to lead a healthy, active lifestyle. We run a **Forest School** in the pocket park in Gretton. This enables the children to participate in outdoor learning, providing opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment.

This learning experience is child-initiated and child-led where adults assist the children in learning at their own pace.

All of this exciting activity takes place in and around our historic 100-year-old Victorian building, which has been extended and refurbished to offer a 21st century learning environment. This is surrounded by a playground, which is a hive of activity with equipment helping to develop our children's imaginative play. Beyond the playground is our unique orchard which has a trim trail, climbing frame, gazebo willow tunnel, play house, outdoor musical performance area and a creative space with a story-telling stage.

We also have five lovely chickens who reside in a coop in our grounds. We have access to the adjacent multi-use games court and recreation ground which gives us extensive sports facilities for the size of the school.

We provide a Breakfast and After school club, run by Corby Council, which means that we can offer wraparound care from 8am to 6pm every day.



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Early Years Foundation Stage



At Gretton Primary Academy we believe that the experiences children have at the very start of their school life are important in ensuring that they grow up as enthusiastic, independent and self-motivated learners for life. To ensure that they have the opportunities to do this we start with excellent transition activities from the on-site pre-school provision – **Chirpy Chicks**, which is run by an independent provider. We have a bespoke early years classroom and outdoor environment to facilitate learning through play and to enable them to build on their

taught experiences and develop the skills needed to meet the Early Learning Goals.

Our excellent Early Years practitioners ensure that every individual has their needs met over their initial year at school, building the skills needed to continue learning as they enter Key Stage One. As part of this experience all children benefit from our Forest School and outdoor learning programme, which develops their self-confidence, self-assurance and responsibility in a unique and inspiring environment.



Curriculum

Gretton Primary Academy has developed an exciting, creative curriculum in line with the National Curriculum. The curriculum has been carefully designed to develop the whole child through four main strands:

- **Philosophical** – to encourage critical thinking and reasoning
- **Practical** – promoting hands-on and real life experiences
- **Emotional** – to embrace the best that has been thought, said and created
- **Intellectual** – enabling children to know more, remember more and do more

We aim for high academic achievement within our curriculum. English and mathematics still have a dedicated teaching time in the day to ensure that basic skills are learnt, these are then practised, applied and consolidated in our theme and skills-based work.

The curriculum in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 incorporates the essential knowledge and skills of the National Curriculum alongside providing enquiry, cultural capital and practical, purposeful first hand experiences so that children develop an emotional connection to, and an understanding of, their place in the world. Learning focuses on a clear progression of key skills and knowledge alongside essentials for learning and life through a termly theme. All themes include a real-life or visual experience, such as a visitor coming into school or an educational visit to inspire children's interest and provide a purpose and context for learning.

Careful ongoing assessment of learning ensures that all children benefit from personalised learning directly relevant to their needs.

Computing is crucial in this modern and developing world and plays a major part within all areas of learning. We use coding to boost logical thinking and touch-screen laptops to enhance their learning journey and to best prepare them for their future.



Languages

Latin

From September 2021, children in Key Stage 2 will begin to learn Latin. The children will be introduced to the Latin language and the culture of Roman Britain. We will focus on learning some Latin vocabulary and grammar and to understand the links to the English language.

English

At Gretton Primary Academy English work is based on the National Curriculum and is delivered daily in dedicated literacy time. We also strive to make English teaching and learning an integral part of our creative curriculum. This means that the majority of English lessons are linked to the current class topic.

The main aim of language development is to create an excellent means of communication, both written and verbal, which can be used confidently and successfully in all aspects of life.

Children have daily writing opportunities that support their next steps in learning. Across a year, children will be taught to write in a range of narrative, non-narrative and poetic genres and we give the children a range of reasons to write to give purpose to their work.

Teachers give children a purpose for their writing and integrate experiences and creative hooks for engagement. In line with the latest research, there is a strong emphasis on talk to promote good writing skills. In EYFS and Year 1 teachers use **Pie Corbett's 'Talk for Writing'** strategies to develop children's use of story language. From Year 2-6 teachers expose children to high quality texts and explore the features of the focus genre type in depth. Teachers also focus on the key skills of spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting to ensure that our current high standards are maintained.

Children receive daily phonics teaching in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 following the **Read, Write Inc.** scheme. The teaching of reading and comprehension continues throughout Key Stage 2 through guided reading and comprehension sessions.

We expect all children to read at home at least five times a week and this is monitored in school.

To enhance our reading curriculum we have a newly refurbished library at the heart of the school which is stocked with thousands of books. We also have a reading dog called Walter who comes into school regularly to sit with the children whilst they are reading.

Mathematics

Deepening mathematical thinking

Mathematics is led by our specialist mathematics teacher and follows the latest developments in the National Curriculum. Our aim is to develop a passion for mathematics in our children, by making lessons practical, fun and engaging. We believe in building confident and competent mathematicians, who feel empowered to ask questions and delve further in their learning.

At Gretton Primary Academy, we firmly believe in helping children to build a solid foundation of basic knowledge and skills, which they can then use and apply, in a variety of ways, to solve problems and find answers to challenging concepts. We help children to do this by ensuring they have consolidated their learning, whilst challenging them and deepening their understanding.

Where possible, mathematics is related to real-life situations and practical life skills, but we also vary the resources and representations children use in their lessons to deepen understanding.

Science

Inspiring Awe and Wonder

The science curriculum at Gretton Primary Academy is fun and inspires awe and wonder in our world. We aim to encourage our children to develop their scientific thinking through hands-on exploration and experimentation alongside a deeper knowledge and understanding of the natural and man-made worlds. Scientific knowledge and skills are taught through communication,



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application, investigation, observation and problem-solving activities.

Where possible scientific skills are linked to the termly theme, or developed through visitors and trips to give real relevance to the children's learning. This cohesive approach leads the children to enjoy new scientific discoveries, inspiring them and equipping them with the skills to shape how we live in our rapidly changing society.

Physical activity

Encouraging teamwork



The children participate in two timetabled hours of physical activity each week, which vary from gymnastics, dance, forest school, swimming, invasion games, specific team games and more. We also have fantastic links with local sporting companies, who provide excellent professional development to staff, whilst simultaneously delivering fantastic sessions to the children. We have termly whole school activity days and workshops, such as hula hooping, hockey, skipping, freestyle football, scootering, circus skills and much more. We also enjoy sporting treats in individual year groups such as outdoor residential visits and sailing at Rutland Water.

At Gretton, we ensure that every child is able to take part in a range of inter-school and in-school sporting competitions, with a key focus on promoting good sportsmanship (which is one of our school values). We pride ourselves on working with our wonderful children, who can work well as a team, praise each other and have fun in a game. Children learn how to care for their bodies, both physically and mentally, and are encouraged to develop a growing self-awareness, positive attitude and commitment to self-improvement through setting goals, so that they are ultimately able to influence their own quality of life.



Celebrating the Arts

Art & Design & Technology



The Academy offers a wide range of arts opportunities. Understanding of arts and artists is part of every theme with a strong creative element each term to provide a visual product related to or inspiring the children's work. Relevant individual artists, periods, artistic skills and techniques are explored and developed as our children progress through the school.

Our curriculum includes a range of activities in all areas of the arts including dance, drama, music as well as art and design. Design and technology aims to provide children with the ability to think critically and problem solve giving them a solid foundation for future learning, plus transferable skills that can be used across the curriculum. Gretton Primary Academy offers many opportunities for the children to celebrate their artistic learning and achievement.

One of which is the annual **Take One Picture** initiative, from the National Gallery in London, where we produce an art gallery for parents for children to showcase their art work. This initiative also means that each child leaves our school with a deep knowledge of seven works of art.

Geography

Engaging Learning



Geography allows our children to gain essential knowledge about the world around them alongside developing fieldwork skills. Our Geography curriculum is built around core concepts which build in complexity as the children move from Early Years to KS2: Location and Place knowledge, Human and Physical, Human Impact on Environment and Sustainability, Culture and Connections and Fieldwork. We aspire for our children to become empathetic about the world and to do their best to protect it.

Understanding of social events, behaviour and their effects on the world and local communities is built up through this variety of role-play, discussion and debate in context.

History



We bring History to life through artefacts, discussion, visits and drama to ensure children have practical, purposeful and first-hand experiences to help them to develop a sense of period. Children learn about the importance of chronology and also about other key historical concepts such as continuity and change. We want our children to think critically, evaluate sources of evidence and give their opinions.

Religious Education



Within the statutory area of religion, children learn about the main features and teachings of Christianity and other key religious faiths. We aim for them to develop skills and knowledge in order to make decisions about the important questions and also to gain a greater understanding of the world in which they live. During their time at Gretton school the children will visit the Church and Baptist chapel in Gretton and at least one other place of worship from a differing faith.

"We are proud of our wonderful children, who can work well as a team, praise each other and have fun in a game."



Including everyone

We offer a range of different activities within and beyond the curriculum and try to ensure that there is something accessible and relevant to every individual's strengths and interests.

Work with our **Pastoral Support Assistant** helps to remove barriers to learning and gives children one-to-one time and emotional support to build self-esteem and confidence when they need it.

In enabling children to get the most out of their learning we hope that every single child will achieve their potential and leave the school as a well-rounded, happy and secure individual with high self-esteem.

Special Educational Needs

At Gretton Primary Academy we make great efforts to include everyone in our activities and learning, **whatever their educational needs**. Every child has full access to the curriculum and we use a variety of teaching styles and differentiation to ensure that all children can access learning in the classroom.

If appropriate, children with additional needs have individual plans and dedicated support to achieve personalised targets. This enables them to understand the relevance and purpose of learning activities and experience levels of progress that bring feelings of success and achievement.



Parent partnership

We pride ourselves on our strong parent partnerships at Gretton Primary Academy, which are an integral part of belonging to our close village community. We encourage all of our parents to be involved in the life of the school and support their child's learning, as we believe a strong partnership between school and home enables the children to enjoy and achieve the best they can. There are regular opportunities to meet teachers, see children's work, participate in questionnaires and attend concerts and assemblies.

In Foundation Stage and Year 1 there are regular **'Stay and Play'** or **'Come and Read'** sessions for parents to share in learning activities with their child. Our learning log provides a daily link between home and school.

We also have a very active PSA (Parent and School Association) that meets regularly to organise fundraising and social events for the school.

Their fundraising efforts have enabled us to significantly improve our outdoor learning space. All parents are most welcome to be involved in the work of the PSA.

Attendance High Engagement

We are pleased that our children want to attend their academy and know that excellent attendance really matters. Those who have good attendance get better jobs in the future, achieve better results, make better friendships and have good self-esteem and confidence. To promote good attendance and punctuality, awards are given during, and at the end of the school year. The children value these awards and they appreciate their parents' support in qualifying for them.



Looking smart

We have a fantastic uniform at Gretton Primary Academy that the children are proud of. It helps to support the ethos and culture which we promote and, as such, it is expected that all children wear the correct logoed uniform. This helps to keep them safe and suitably dressed for school life, visits and activities. We are

proud of the fact that the children's appearance is commented on when we take part in festivals, visits and sporting events. Uniform is available only through our supplier **Karl Sports**. For details of how to order please go to www.karlsports.co.uk, visit the shop at Trafalgar Rd, Kettering NN16 8DD or telephone them on **0330 008 0401**.



Further information

More details about Gretton Primary Academy and the Brooke Weston Trust, including the most up to date information, news, including recent newsletters, policies and examples of work can be found on our website www.grettonprimary.org or the Trust website www.brookewestontrust.org

Moving on...



Children from Gretton Primary Academy move on to a variety of secondary schools, including the Brooke Weston Trust family of secondary academies. We encourage parents and children to visit these to ensure that they find the right provision for their child.



Admissions



To apply for a place in our Early Years reception class parents will need to go through the North Northamptonshire Council admissions process, details of which can be found on the Northamptonshire County Council website www.northnorthants.gov.uk

We advise that parents visit the school and let us know if they are applying for a reception place for their child. For a place in any other year group we recommend that parents contact the school in the first instance so that we can liaise with the Council over the offer of any places. Our full admissions policy is available online on our website www.grettonprimary.org



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