

BEING OUR BEST SELF



MEON
INFANT SCHOOL



WELCOME TO MEON INFANT SCHOOL

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Meon Infant School.

I am extremely passionate about education and believe it is our responsibility to share with our pupils a curriculum that will help them master learning, language and life skills to find their place in the world.

At Meon Infant School we aim to provide a secure and nurturing environment where all teachers, parents, governors and visitors to our school are respected, valued and supported.

We aim to instil a lifelong love of learning, which enables all of our pupils to have the confidence to flourish in an ever changing world.



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 Infant 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 Infant 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.





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LEARNING AT MEON INFANT SCHOOL

These first years of education, we believe, are vital to develop that love of learning. Our aim is to immerse the children in a curriculum that is exciting, creative and relevant. We teach children the skills of early Reading, Writing and Maths to a high standard through a range of engaging topics. At our school we place a strong emphasis on cross curricular opportunities and feel passionately about the use of outdoor learning to provide an enriched curriculum for the children.

Children will be able to apply the knowledge and skills learned in one subject in a range of contexts which will reinforce their learning. Your child will gain a range of knowledge and skills, following the Early Years Foundation stage Curriculum and then in Years 1 and 2 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 support learning, not just now but for the future. Thinking Maps and Thinking Hats are embedded within our curriculum, used within language and social emotional development and help with decision making at different levels throughout the school. We are also currently developing other thinking tools to further embed these skills.



#WEAREONE

#WeAreOne Events

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, our children have the opportunity to participate in our Trust's 'We Are One' events, where schools across our Trust unite in celebration of a key event or national day. Our children love getting involved and representing our school in a range of Trust-wide competitions, fundraising events and creative activities. Recent 'We Are One' events have included a 'True Colours Day' celebrating identity for LGBTQ+ History Month, and a World Book Day Bingo competition where children had the chance to win theatre tickets!

Being part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust family opens our school and our children up to a world of opportunities to network, collaborate and compete as part of a wider community.



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.

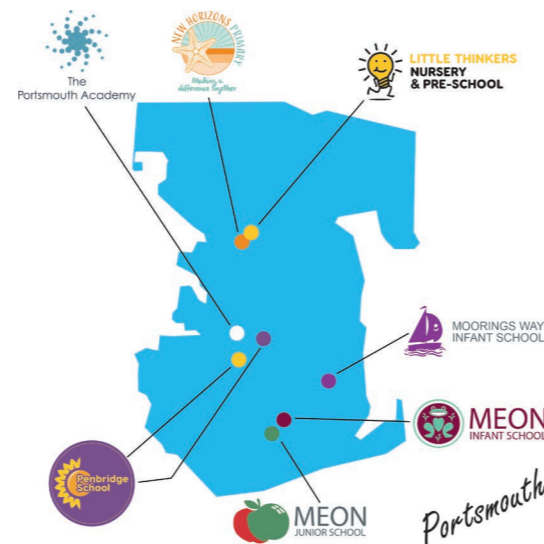
All-through education has many potential benefits for your child. First and foremost, our multi-academy Trust does have a shared approach to teaching children, a language of learning that is taught and then built upon. This consistency helps to accelerate children's progress as they understand what to 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.



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