



Kensington Junior Academy

Inspire, Believe, Achieve



Welcome to Kensington Junior Academy



Headteacher:
Mrs Becky Turner

A rich, exciting and stimulating learning environment
At Kensington Junior Academy our aim is to create a learning environment where governors, teachers and parents work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, enabling all children to feel valued and allowing for the best possible educational achievement.

Happy and responsible
We actively promote a culture where children care for themselves and each other, for their school and their community, and where they can develop as happy, responsible and self-disciplined members of society. The curriculum at Kensington is firmly rooted in the needs of its learners and the local community.

Our vision is that all learners have access to high quality learning experiences, which ensure our children have a wide subject knowledge and consequently attain well.

Nurturing the whole child
Learning is underpinned by our commitment to nurturing the whole child on their individual social and emotional journey to becoming citizens of the 21st Century. To be fully prepared for their next steps we foster a strong sense of self, understanding of and respect for others and the confidence to map out their own journey to excellence.

Pastoral Care
Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips and residential visits.



Pastoral care is very important to us and we ensure that all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

Dedicated staff
I am also very proud of our exceptionally experienced and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential. They work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

Parent partnership
Kensington values the school-home partnership as essential in helping pupils achieve their best. By working and communicating effectively with parents and carers, we ensure childrens achievements and needs are recognised, celebrated and met in a positive, inclusive learning environment.



Get in touch
The information and images in this prospectus are just the start. We welcome visits from families so that you can find out for yourself whether this is the place for you and your child. Please contact us to arrange a time to suit on: 0115 9322920. I look forward to meeting you.

Becky Turner

Djanogly Learning Trust

innovation | resilience | excellence

At our family of academies we believe that every child has the right to an education that gives them the best opportunity to succeed and prosper. We know that this takes great people, hard work and attention to detail. This is a considerable responsibility and we take it very seriously. Everyone within our trust is fully committed to learning. Our ethos is to be innovative in order to improve, to develop resilience in order to face challenges, and to strive for excellence in everything we do.

Innovation
We believe it's vital to look for new and creative approaches in order to maintain our ongoing commitment to improving our teaching and learning provision. We strive tirelessly to achieve the best, are not afraid to take risks and are never complacent. All of our staff are actively encouraged to look for improved ways of working and to promote an atmosphere of trust.

Resilience
We believe it's crucial for both children and adults to develop a strong sense of self in order to succeed in challenging times. Our mission is to ensure that our children and staff have the independence to work things out for themselves, the confidence to ask for help when they need it and the courage to never give up.

Excellence
We believe that everyone deserves to experience excellence. Our organisation is ambitious and we endeavour to support all our children and staff to reach their full potential. We commit to delivering high quality professional support at all levels as part of our journey to excellence. By providing this excellence in teaching and learning, we ensure that all our children have the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed.



School day: settling in

School hours
The school gates open at 8.45am each morning with the bell ringing at 9:00am for the start of the school day. There is a 15 minute morning break and a lunch break from 12.00 noon to 1.00pm. At the end of the day, the gates will open at 3.20pm ready for the end of school at 3:30pm.

Wrap Around Care
We offer a Breakfast Club from 7.45am each morning for just £3 a session where children can enjoy a healthy breakfast, socialise and play games before school. After-school care is provided off-site by JPAC who offer a pick-up service from Kensington. Please visit their website for further information www.jpacschoolclubs.co.uk

Attendance
We believe that good attendance at school has a direct impact on good progress and achievement. It is important for children to attend school every day in order to maximise both their learning and their social and emotional development. We work hard to ensure that all children achieve this. If your child is absent from school, please telephone the school office on 0115 9322920 on the first morning of absence, before 09:30, giving the reason why your child will not be attending school that day. Our parents are reminded that Headteachers are no longer allowed to authorise holidays in term time.

Uniform
We have a recommended form of dress at Kensington which parents and governors wholeheartedly support. The wearing of school colours helps create a school identity to which we can all relate. All clothing and equipment must be clearly marked with the child's name.

School colours are: white shirt/blouse; white, gold or burgundy polo shirt and black or grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress.

Where to buy
The following are available to buy from school: KJA Sweatshirt/ Cardigan; KJA P.E. Kit - T Shirt, Shorts and P.E.Bag and Book Bag. Please contact the School Office to place an order. Children receive one free jumper or cardigan from us each September.

School meals and snacks

School dinners
We operate a Healthy Eating Policy throughout school, offering lunches provided by Derbyshire School Meals Service. Special diets can be catered for. For children bringing a packed lunch, these should contain healthy food choices and be sent in a named plastic container or box. There should be no nuts, fizzy drinks, glass bottles, knives, chocolate bars or sweets. Menus are available from school.

Free school meals
Children in Year 3 and above can qualify for free school meals if their family are in receipt of certain income related benefits.

How to apply
If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals please do not hesitate to apply. You can apply online via the Derbyshire County Council website www.derbyshire.gov.uk.

Break-time and drinks
Children are asked to bring a healthy snack of fruit, raw vegetables etc. for their mid morning break. We run a healthy tuck shop at this time where such items can be purchased directly from school. Fresh chilled water is available freely throughout school from water coolers situated around the building.



Curriculum: learning, personal growth and development



Art

At Kensington Junior Academy, we offer an enriching and diverse curriculum that celebrates art in all its forms. We delve into the world of renowned artists, dissecting and annotating their work to unravel the process they take to achieve such brilliance.

Our students embark on a journey of self-discovery, progressing from initial sketches to a variety of paintings and intricate sculptures. We also keep up to date with the art world, keeping our eyes on both local and global art events, ensuring our students stay connected to the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of creativity.

At Kensington Junior Academy, we welcome parents and carers to our exhibitions where the students proudly share their work and express their individual creativity.

Music

Music plays a vital role in our school life, and our philosophy of music education is grounded in the belief that every child is inherently a musician. We teach music discreetly and incorporate it into other parts of the curriculum where appropriate. Each lesson is hands-on and engaging for all students, inspiring them to 'Think like a Musician'. In every class, we follow Charanga's English Model Music Curriculum, which aligns with the National Curriculum for Music. This curriculum provides well-structured units and lessons with week-by-week support tailored to each year group. Our students adopt a spiral approach to their musical learning, revisiting, building upon, and expanding their knowledge and skills incrementally. This approach helps consolidate and enhance their learning, ultimately boosting their musical confidence.

Derbyshire Music Partnership

We work with the Derbyshire Music Partnership to provide all children in Year 4 with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument throughout the year at no cost. To date, children have experienced playing the cello, violin, viola, clarinet and flute.

Responsible, mature, positive community members

Our curriculum focuses on nurturing a love of reading and critical thinking, aiming to equip students with lifelong learning skills and cultural awareness. It also emphasizes fostering responsible, mature, and positive community members while promoting independence and resilience in learners. Our curriculum is enriched with hands-on experiences and expert visits, combining various subjects cohesively. We prioritize the holistic development of each child, helping them become 21st-century citizens with self-confidence, tolerance, and the ability to excel.

Our Key Stage 2 curriculum

Our curriculum revolves around three core questions: "Where do I Belong?," "What Makes Me Unique?," and "How Can I Make A Difference?." Each question guides learning for a term, ensuring students have a strong sense of self and ambition, belonging, and an understanding of their role in improving their community. Implementation involves creating long-term and medium-term plans that link subjects and experiences. Key components of knowledge are identified for effective learning, with flexibility for various activities like PE, RE, PSHE, and assemblies. Art, Design, Technology, and Computing are integrated into the broader themes, while RE and PE remain separate subjects. Music and MFL are taught weekly, culminating in exhibitions or assemblies where students share their learning.

An emphasis on reading

We prioritise reading throughout our curriculum, fostering a love for diverse books and authors. Our approach enriches subjects beyond literacy, developing critical skills and global awareness. Our strategy aims to inspire enthusiasm, diverse appreciation, decoding skills, fluency, and comprehension. Reading is integrated into all lessons, encouraging students to "Think like a reader, behave like a writer." All students choose from a selection of quality books and have access to our newly refurbished library. Initial assessments identify phonics gaps, and the Little Wandle scheme is provided. Ongoing phonics support is offered as needed. A rigorous reading timetable exposes students to diverse authors and genres, complementing the wider curriculum. Tools like Comprehension Ninja books and Reading Plus aid individual progress.

Behaviour and self-development: foundations for the future

Behaviour for Learning Policy

At Kensington Junior Academy, we believe in creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all our pupils. Our behaviour policy is designed to foster positive behaviour, personal growth, and accountability, while also promoting restorative justice principles and incorporating the Zones of Regulation framework. We aim to empower pupils to make responsible choices, develop self-regulation skills, and maintain harmonious relationships within the school community.

Our school rules

We expect everyone in our school community to use these 4 simple rules:

- We care for everyone and everything.
- We follow instructions to help us to make the right choices.
- We always use good manners.
- We take responsibility for our own learning and behaviour.

Our learning behaviours

We believe that all children will learn better if they can develop the following 5 behaviours of learning:

- Collaboration - Being able to work together. All children will have a wide range of opportunities to work together, developing the skills to collaborate effectively.
- Curiosity - The desire to know more and to explore the world around us.
- Discipline - Developing an ordered approach to learning and life. Children will develop the ability to work in a logical way, to help them to do the right thing at the right time.
- Imagination - The power to dream and to create. Our aim is to develop the imaginations of all of our children, by allowing them to use their thoughts to create new ideas, places, people and concepts.
- Resilience - Having the determination to succeed – whatever it takes. When things are hard, we want our children to keep going, never give up and push

Zones of Regulation

We recognise the importance of emotional awareness and self-regulation. The Zones of Regulation framework will be integrated into our curriculum to help pupils identify and manage their emotions effectively. Pupils will be taught various self-regulation strategies within each zone (Green, Blue, Yellow, Red) to help them cope with and manage their emotions appropriately. Teachers and staff will provide a supportive environment where pupils feel comfortable expressing their emotions, seeking help when needed, and utilising self-regulation strategies.

Rewards

Our ultimate aim is for children to gain satisfaction and pride in their own achievements. We believe that ‘trying our best’ all of the time is a life skill and as such should not always require a material reward. However, we recognise that material rewards are appropriate for certain achievements. All children will be praised for their achievements where appropriate, both verbally and in a written form on their work etc, special achievements, in all areas, will be recorded on the school learning behaviour certificates, each class has a system of rewards, resulting in a prize when the appropriate limit has been reached, post cards sent home to inform parents and carers about good social/learning behaviour, tea and cakes celebrations with the Head Teacher, end of year awards for each year group, certificates and prizes for attendance, in school reward afternoons and class agreed systems.

Our approach to discipline focuses on restorative measures and learning opportunities. However, consequences will be implemented when necessary, taking into account the severity and frequency of the behaviour.

We value open communication and encourage parents and carers to be actively involved in their child's education. We will work collaboratively with parents to address behavioural concerns and find appropriate solutions.



Enriched curriculum: clubs, trips and visitors



During the school year, we participate in a wide variety of community activities including: our own schools sports events; inter-junior school sports; inter-junior School swimming gala; Harvest Festival; Christmas parties; open evenings; educational visits and journeys; visitor presentations in school and various after school clubs.

We will continue to plan more themed days and activities in order to embed creative and enterprise skills further. Parents are always given advance notice of activities to be held after school hours.

Clubs

The school offers a wide range of after school clubs such as:

- Multi-sports - Erewash Sports Partnership.
- Art
- Spanish
- Dance

Trips

Each year group will take part in at least one educational visit a year to complement their learning in school. Recently school trips have included:

- Twycross Zoo
- Wollaton Hall
- Think Tank in Birmingham
- Lea Green Residential (Year 6)
- University of Nottingham
- Mount Cook

Children often participate in local visits too such as weekly trips to Ilkeston Library. All of these trips and activities provide our learners with real life experiences that can help them relate what they learn at school to the world around them and develop their confidence.

Visitors

- Visitors to school have included:
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
 - University of Nottingham
 - Derbyshire Road Safety Officers

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Special Educational Needs

We are completely committed to inclusion for all pupils and make every reasonable adjustment to ensure that pupils may access all aspects of the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom.

Individual programmes of work with targets (IEPs) are set for each child in need of extra support and these are subject to regular reviews which involve parents.

Children who do have learning difficulties are monitored carefully by the teachers and Special Needs Co-ordinators and the curriculum is differentiated to the level which the children require.

Activities are also adapted if this would enhance inclusion eg choosing violins rather than flutes/clarinets to enable a pupil with partial fingers on one hand to be able to access a musical opportunity, adapting Sports Day challenges, introducing all pupils to Paralympics sports such as Boccia and offering wheelchair basketball within PE lessons etc.

Help and advice from specialist teaching staff outside school is sought if necessary.

As well as co-ordinators for special needs, we also have two learning support mentors who oversee arrangements for safeguarding concerns and liaison with Social Services.

How will the curriculum be matched to your child's needs?

For pupils with an EHC Plan, staff will plan activities that work towards the targets set out in the plan. These may be broken down into smaller, achievable objectives for each term, and outlined in an IEP (Individual Education Plan).

As a parent, the IEP will be sent to you each term, and discussed at Parents' Evenings. Staff will keep in regular contact with you via the Homework Diary, and some pupils have additional Home/School Contact Books.

Staff will liaise closely with other agencies supporting your child eg Health professionals, Autism Outreach, Behaviour Support.

The SENCO will organise an annual review of progress towards the targets in the EHC Plan; parents are invited, as are the pupil and all agencies offering support.

How accessible is the school environment?

Adaptations have been made to the school environment to ensure it is fully accessible for anyone with a disability.

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.

Our fantastic facilities

Supporting the learning experience

We are very fortunate to have a beautiful Victorian building as our school. We operate at the heart of our local community with generation after generation of pupils joining us from local families. The facilities we offer to benefit the children, and further support their learning and school experience, include:

Computing

We have a wireless network which enables laptops and iPads to be used throughout the building. We also have Interactive whiteboards fitted into all classrooms.

The teaching of Computing at Kensington Junior Academy prepares our pupils to become responsible communicators, collaborators and analysts able to contribute and thrive in the technological 21st century. Learning combines practical skills with greater knowledge, which will prepare pupils for life in a world where understanding, adaptability and transferable skills are critical.

Library

At Kensington Junior Academy, we place reading at the heart of our entire curriculum. We want all of our children to be lovers of books and lifelong readers. Every class in the school has access to our newly refurbished library where they can choose from a range carefully selected books have been chosen to ensure they come into contact with a wide variety of subjects, genres and authors.

Attractive garden area

Our gardening club is a favourite with our pupils. They recently developed a Coronation garden n in our grounds, for which they won second place in the Erewash in Bloom competition.

Eco Club

Our Eco Club at Kensington is called 'The Ministry of the Future'. The Ministry of the Future is committed to promoting environmental awareness and education throughout our school community, and initiating and participating in eco-friendly projects and activities such as:

- Organising clean-up drives and tree planting events.
- Advocating for waste reduction, recycling, and composting.
- Hosting eco-themed workshops and awareness campaigns.
- Collaborating with local organisations and participating in environmental initiatives.
- Promoting energy conservation and sustainable transportation options.



Sport: physical learning

A positive relationship with physical activity

We support every child to 'get better at PE'. We aim for all children to develop a positive relationship with physical activity and excel in a broad range of physical activities. We fully align ourselves with the national curriculum and base our curriculum on 'three pillars': motor competence; rules, strategies and tactics; and healthy participation. We support children to develop the physical literacy, emotional and thinking skills, which underpin not just activity and sport but are transferable life skills. PE is a gateway into the world of sport and activity. We recognise the traditions and cultural reference points associated with sport and physical activity that are part of our shared heritage, and we provide pupils with an enriching aspect of our communal life. We provide opportunities for pupils to participate in healthy competition. We value the safety of pupils and aim for as many children as possible to be able to swim competently, confidently and proficiently by the end of KS2.

A range of sporting activities

We provide a wealth of learning opportunities through a range of sporting activities, including invasions games, net and wall games, strike and field games, gymnastics, dance, swimming and outdoor and adventure. We value the safety of pupils and aim for as many children as possible to be able to swim competently, confidently and proficiently by the end of KS2. We deliver two hours of high-quality PE sessions each week. We adopt a child-centred approach that engages and challenges every child. Each unit of learning, linked closely to our learning behaviours, develops key abilities children need to be successful in PE and sport: creative, cognitive, health and fitness, physical, social and personal.

Competitions, tournaments and sports partnerships

We provide opportunities for pupils to participate in healthy competition. Pupils take part in a range of competitions through our membership with Erewash School Sports Partnership, and they have opportunities to be taught by qualified coaches. Pupils also take part in Bike Ability training.

Increasing physical activity

Classes are encouraged to be physically active daily by making use of our walking track.



Admissions



Admissions arrangements
Admissions to Year 3 are handled centrally by the Local Authority. Parents are asked to express their preferred school during the Autumn Term of Year 2. We hold an ‘Open Evening’ in early December for interested Year 2 parents to look around school and meet staff. Parents who wish to visit individually are of course welcome. Please telephone in advance to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Places for Year 3 are offered the following March. Once a place has been accepted and confirmed, we hold a meeting in July with parents of the new intake where this school’s functions are explained in greater detail.

We then arrange for the Year 2 children to come round the school with their teachers in July and our Year 3 teachers also visit the feeder schools to meet their new pupils

Transfer during the academic year
Some families move during the academic year and seek a new school. When this happens we welcome a visit before you make an application. When a place has been allocated, we then invite both pupil and parents/carers into school to meet with the School Business Manager so that transition can be arranged from your old school to here.

Transfer to Secondary School
For Year 6 pupils moving on to Key Stage 3, we meet with staff from the secondary schools once places are confirmed. All local secondary schools hold Open Days/Evenings before applications have to be made and we have close working relationships with their staff and SENCOs. Year 6 pupils will spend two days at their new secondary school in July, and some pupils with additional needs have extra visits. We transfer all relevant records and information, and secondary school staff spend time meeting our staff and pupils to gain the fullest possible understanding of each individual.

Getting involved



Involving parents
We encourage parental involvement and we will communicate with you through Class Dojo and regular newsletters. Upcoming events are also published under the Calendar section of our website. We also have an active Twitter page to enable us to share events in school with the wider community. Various fund raising activities are organised by the children each year and we are always very grateful for parental support. We hold regular exhibitions where parents are invited into school so that our pupils can share their learning with them. At the end of the year, each year group holds an assembly and parents are invited into school to watch these.

Voluntary helpers
Parent volunteers are always welcome to support with hearing readers in school; helping with practical activities eg Art; providing extra supervision on visits and trips etc. Parent support for whole school activities is also greatly appreciated e.g. assemblies, themed days, sports days, fundraising activities, charity events and exhibitions of our work. You can become directly involved in the life of the school as a volunteer by expressing an interest to the Headteacher, or leaving your contact details in the school office.

Governorship
We have a full and active Governing Body, which includes Parent Governors as well as representatives from staff and the local community.

The primary responsibility of the Local Governing Body is to act as ‘Champions for the Children’ and it is their educational experience that is paramount. We discharge this responsibility by supporting and challenging every aspect of school activity from the highest academic aspiration to everyday housekeeping to ensure there is overall improvement, progress and achievement and that each child is encouraged to realise fully their individual potential.

It is wonderful to have parents/carers, with their many varied skills and viewpoints on the Governing Body. There are so many helpful ways you can become involved with this school and being a Governor is just another one of them. Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.

Our Vision and Values

At Kensington Junior Academy, we will ensure that our pupils are academically, socially and emotionally able 21st century citizens.

We INSPIRE our pupils to be successful. Our pupils are taught to BELIEVE in themselves. We provide all pupils with the opportunities they need to ACHIEVE success, both academically and personally.



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