



# Roebuck Academy

## SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



Dream, Believe, Achieve





“My children are really happy going to school.  
They are cared for, taught well, challenged  
and made to feel incredibly important.”  
Quote from a Parent



## Vision Statement

We are a thriving and active school community situated in the south east of Stevenage. We provide inspirational, innovative and memorable learning experiences that motivate and challenge children, so that their aspirations can rise and dreams can be achieved.

We create an environment which promotes a love of learning and empowers our children to become independent, successful and lifelong learners, who care about themselves, each other and the wider world.

**Our children are the ‘beating heart of our school’ and we ensure every child is valued, nurtured and encouraged to be the very best that they can be.**

We inspire our children to Dream, Believe and Achieve.

We are proud of our modern, state-of-the-art building and the wonderful grounds that we have. We are fortunate to be able to offer our pupils the ideal place to learn, explore, play and grow. We look forward to getting to know you and your child.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the school with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Warmest Wishes

Andy Mari



## D is for Determination.

We believe that dreams don't become a reality without hard work, practice and a great deal of determination. This is reinforced everyday through our 'Growth Mindset' approach to learning, as well as our positive attitude which promotes the message of, 'I can't do it YET!' Our children are taught that determination and persistence are the keys to success, and our equally determined staff work tirelessly to ensure all pupils achieve the best outcomes. We ensure that our pupils are fully equipped to take on new challenges, and confidently take risks to improve their learning experiences.

*At Roebuck Academy we are DETERMINED.*

## R is for Respect.

At Roebuck Academy, we believe that an integral aspect of school life is learning to respect ourselves, each other and our environment. We celebrate our differences and our special, unique qualities that make us individual. Receiving and providing respect to others is important because it helps us to feel safe and to express ourselves, our individuality and our diversity. Respect means that you accept people for who they are, even when they're different from you or you don't agree with their opinions or views. Respect in our relationships builds feelings of trust, safety, and well-being in all.

*At Roebuck Academy we are RESPECTFUL.*

## E is for Excellence.

We firmly believe that with the right attitude, support and encouragement, every child at Roebuck Academy is capable of achieving amazing things. We never settle for second best and we always aim high. We set high expectations for our children, staff and community and encourage them to be the best that they can be.

We develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes of pupils to promote ambition and a strong drive to succeed. We believe that if you can dream it, you can believe it, if you can believe it, you can do it! *At Roebuck Academy we strive for EXCELLENCE in all we do.*



## School Values

Here at Roebuck Academy we have six school values which are integral to all aspects of school life. Our values are centred around the acronym: DREAMS which is derived from our school motto, DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE.

## A is for Altogether.

We know that at Roebuck Academy we are stronger and better when we work together. We help each other and think of others before ourselves; acting selflessly and wanting the best for everyone in our community.

We learn best when we do so collaboratively; working together using our own strengths, skills and talents to support others. We know that working together will help us to communicate with others, increase our social skills and self-confidence, and help us to develop into happy, healthy and caring adults. *At Roebuck Academy we are ALTOGETHER.*

## M is for Motivation.

At Roebuck Academy, we want our children to attend school everyday feeling happy and motivated in their learning. We achieve this through providing engaging, immersive and hands-on learning activities, which stimulate curiosity and establishes a love of learning. Pupils are encouraged to be ambitious and hard-working even when challenged. Our staff understand that each child is unique and that motivation happens in different ways. That is why we personalise our pupils learning experiences to inspire them, so they feel motivated to succeed in their learning.

*At Roebuck Academy we are MOTIVATED.*

## S is for Safety.

Keeping our children safe is integral to all aspects of everything we do at the school. Our children learn in a compassionate, nurturing and safe environment in which they are allowed to develop their sense of self, make mistakes and explore.

We provide learning activities to ensure that the pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe, to develop positive and healthy relationships and how to avoid situations where they might be at risk.

*At Roebuck Academy we are SAFE.*

Dream, Believe, Achieve



## Aims

- To support, nurture and guide our pupils to become independent, resilient, motivated and happy learners who take responsibility for their learning;
- To provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment which celebrates cultural diversity. An environment where everyone is valued and their efforts appreciated;
- To develop learners who value themselves and their achievements, and respect others and the environment in which they live;
- To provide a balanced, broad and relevant curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils in our school and community. A curriculum which prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences needed in life;
- To offer rich, personalised, immersive and unforgettable learning experiences which inspire the children;
- To recognise the potential of our children, encouraging them to be ambitious and value their own strengths and unique qualities;
- To provide a safe physical and emotional environment that reflects the cultural diversity of the school;
- To foster a mutually supportive partnership between home, school and our community.

“Our daughter is flourishing here, she feels valued and safe. She is cherished and nurtured, all the while being inspired to develop a love and thirst for learning.”

Quote from a Parent



## Organisation of Admissions

Admissions at Roebuck Academy are controlled by Hertfordshire County Council. The Admissions Team is happy to advise parents on all aspects of admission to the County's Schools. Though this prospectus aims to provide you with a flavour of the school, you can only truly appreciate the atmosphere of our amazing school if you visit in person. If you would like to arrange a visit, please call in or telephone to make an appointment.

## School Organisation

We have a 30-hour Nursery provision which starts from age 3. All children start school full-time at the beginning of the school year in which they become 5. We have two classes in each year group from Nursery to Year 6. Timings of the school day are organised to meet the needs of each age phase. These can be found on a separate page which is included in our Welcome Pack. Key Stage One and Key Stage Two classes are overseen by experienced Key Stage Leaders who liaise with the school's Senior Leadership Team, including the Headteacher, regularly.





## Early Years

Welcome to Roebuck Academy and the beginning of your child's education. At Roebuck Academy we recognise the individuality of every child and their family and look forward to working together to identify their strengths and areas of development. We work collaboratively to ensure that your child makes the best possible progress, and enjoys their time whilst in Nursery and Reception.

### Classes

At Roebuck Academy we have 2 Nursery and 2 Reception classes. The Nursery runs from Monday to Friday with both part-time and full-time places offered. Children can attend either Monday to Friday 9:00 – 12:00 or Monday to Friday 9:00 – 3:00. We can offer the government funded 30 hours for eligible families. There are up to 52 places available in the Nursery.

The Reception classes run from 8:45am until 3:15pm, Monday to Friday. There are 30 places available in each Reception class.



### What will my child learn?

Children in the Nursery and Reception classes follow Development Matters and work towards achieving the Early Learning Goals. The national expectation is that children will reach the Early Learning Goals by the end of their Reception year. However, we know that every child is an individual and all children are supported to make the best possible progress. Children with special educational needs will be identified in partnership with parents/carers. Using continuous observations, our experienced practitioners identify learning opportunities within play and make decisions regarding a child's next steps in learning.

The prime areas of learning are:

- Communication and language;
- Personal, social and emotional;
- Physical development.

The specific areas are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world;
- Expressive arts and design.

“Roebuck provides my children with exciting opportunities and an engaging and diverse curriculum.”

Quote from a Parent



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At Roebuck Academy we believe that children should be at the heart of all we do. We follow their needs and interests in a nurturing and stimulating environment. Our classrooms are organised purposefully to facilitate learning and opportunities to play. Our learning areas include: role play, sand and water, construction, creative and outdoor.

Our children will also mark make and use reading, writing and numbers in all areas of their play. Children will begin to develop their early reading skills, where they will be provided with many opportunities to fall in love with books.

#### Partnership with Parents

We aim to make the transition from home to school a smooth and enjoyable experience for all children. Through our strong partnership with parents, we develop healthy and happy children who feel confident, safe and have a love for learning. We regularly invite parents into school to meet the staff and to involve them in the learning of their children. Our EYFS staff will visit young children in their current setting, as well as completing a home visit prior to starting school. This enables staff to collect much needed information about your child.



“Roebuck is an exceptional school which places children at the heart of everything it does.”

Quote from a Parent

#### Learning Environment

Our EYFS team work harmoniously to plan and create a shared learning environment for each area of learning. During independent learning time, the children have access to both shared indoor and outdoor provision, enabling children from both Nursery and Reception classes to learn and play together. At Roebuck Academy we strive to ensure that a balance is maintained between structured teaching and child-initiated play.



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## Key Stage One – Years 1 & 2

Building on the foundations of learning in the EYFS, we continue to nurture children's educational journey. All children are encouraged to achieve high standards in their daily Literacy and Maths lessons through the use of personalised targets. These are reviewed and updated to ensure children take ownership of their learning in order to make significant progress. In addition to this, we provide many opportunities to explore and develop pupils' creative, physical, cultural, spiritual, personal and social skills. We provide a wide range of real and relevant learning experiences through our broad, enriched and differentiated curriculum. Using our continual assessment and reporting procedures, we are able to inform future learning steps to further prepare and develop our children towards the next part of their journey.



## Key Stage Two – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Moving into Key Stage Two, children continue to remain engaged, inspired, motivated and sufficiently challenged. Through providing memorable experiences and rich opportunities for high quality learning, children can thrive during these later years in the school. The curriculum is practical and hands-on but carefully structured, providing a balance of transferable skills to equip our adult learners of the future.

We believe passionately that Literacy, Maths, ICT and personal development are crucial for enabling children to access a balanced and broad curriculum. As in Key Stage One, every child has a daily Maths and Literacy lesson. Much of our teaching is cross-curricular. Teacher assessment is a continuous picture of assessment showing children's achievements, during the course of the year and Key Stage. We formally assess the children three times a year in Reading and Maths, whilst Writing, RE and Science are assessed on a continual basis. We carefully analyse the assessment results and track each child's progress and attainment, and plan any interventions or extensions needed. Teachers also use the results of these assessments to inform their future planning and to set targets for individual children.

“The curriculum is buzzing with a range of rich learning experiences which makes learning memorable.”

Quote from a Parent



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# The Curriculum

Our school recognises the rights and needs of every child, and aims to ensure the highest quality of education and equality of opportunity for each of its pupils. All aspects of the National Curriculum are taught, with much of our work stemming from first hand, practical and immersive learning experiences. Our curriculum is lively and interesting. Interactive teaching methods are used and the use of ICT is integrated throughout the curriculum.

Teachers and support staff work together to provide work that is appropriate and challenging for each child.

We believe that by providing our children with a rich, diverse and relevant curriculum that they will become: skilled readers, confident writers, mathematicians, scientists, historians, geographers, musicians, artists, linguists, athletes, digital leaders, designers and technologists, inclusive and diverse.



## We teach our children to follow the 3R’s and their DREAMS.

Ready, Respectful, Resilient and Safe.

The aim of the 3R’s is to provide opportunities for children to develop their character and to have high aspirations of themselves and each other. We want our children to know how to make a positive contribution to their community and wider society.

Our curriculum is carefully crafted so that our children develop their academic, social and cultural capital. Our curriculum promotes curiosity and a love and thirst for learning. It is ambitious and empowers our children to become independent and resilient. We strive for academic excellence and want our children to have high aspirations.

We enrich their time in our school with memorable experiences and provide opportunities which are normally out of reach. We firmly believe that it is not just about what happens in the classroom, it is about the added value of what we offer at school that really inspires our children.



“Leaders have worked hard to develop a high-quality curriculum. They have thought carefully about what pupils need to learn.”

Ofsted September 2021





## Religious Education

At Roebuck Academy, we follow the Jigsaw 'Discovery' programme of Religious Education, which is based on the Christian faith but also considers the main beliefs and features of other world religions. Collective Worship is held daily and is broadly Christian (though of a non-denominational character) and makes reference to other religions. Collective Worship and Religious Education helps the children to think about the part they play in influencing their own lives and those of others. It also offers the opportunity to think about feelings and the effects of our actions.

Parents who wish to withdraw their children from Religious Education and/or Collective Worship should state their wishes to the Headteacher and discuss an alternative programme of work.



## Relationships, Sex and Drugs Education

Relationships, Sex and Drugs Education is part of the overall provision of Personal, Social and Health Education. It is concerned not only with the knowledge of facts but also with the development of attitudes and values. Children's questions are answered honestly and sensitively, at their own level of understanding, as and when they arise.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the [non-statutory/non-science) components of sex education within RSE. We would hope that parents would discuss any concerns regarding curriculum content with us in the first instance.

## Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

We follow the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and have our own Inclusion Policy. SEND is led across the school by our SEND team who are very experienced and are passionate about inclusion for all. At Roebuck Academy, no child is left behind. The school is fully accessible for any person who may have a disability. We have many resources and strategies in place that help children with SEND make significant progress. We believe that parental support is essential to the success of our children with special needs.



## Most Able and Talented Children

All children are encouraged to be independent and self-motivated and develop their abilities. We believe that the role of the school is to provide a wide range of challenging learning opportunities which will enable each individual, including those with exceptional abilities, to develop to their full potential.

Early recognition of the most able and talented children is extremely important. When planning work for the most able and talented children, one of our main aims is to encourage higher order thinking skills and mastery of subject knowledge.





## Keeping Healthy and Lunchtimes

We aim to ensure that children are encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle by supporting healthy eating, the enjoyment of exercise/sport and taking care of everyone's emotional well-being. We have a full-time pastoral support and attendance worker who works closely with children and families when the need arises. All our aims are bolstered by maintaining good relationships with families to ensure good support of our philosophy and practices.

Water is freely available throughout the day. We encourage children to drink water regularly throughout the day. Children are encouraged to eat fruit at break time. Younger children are also able to drink milk every day. Break times are a time for children to play and enjoy themselves.

Our school kitchen staff provide the children with a well-balanced meal at lunchtime. School dinners have to be paid for in advance. The children who have a school meal have a choice of four different options and these change daily. School lunches continue to be a popular part of the school day!

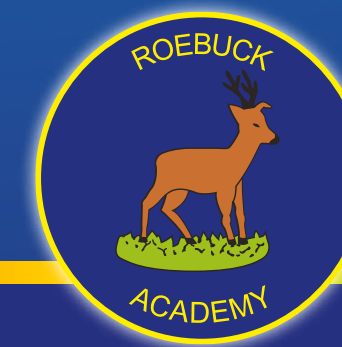
We have staggered lunchtimes at Roebuck where the younger children eat first. There is a team of skilled Midday Supervisory Assistants who supervise the children in our dining room, and a team who interact with the children when playing outside. Lunchtime is a happy, safe and important time of the day.

The school is proud of being awarded: The Herts for Learning Well-being Quality Mark (WQM) with a focus on Emotional and Mental Health Well-being.

## Extended School and Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a morning and after school club called Buccaneers which runs daily during term time. To find details for this club, please visit our school website or contact Buccaneers by phoning the school.

There is a wide and varying range of before, after school and lunchtime activities, which are led by staff and are available to all of our children. These clubs differ across the academic calendar and include options such as: cheer, dance, gymnastics, art, music, ICT and a wide range of different sports. The school has a community focus and is sometimes used by external organisations.



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## Behaviour

We believe that excellent behaviour stems from:

- Positive relationships between children and between adults and children;
- A well planned, relevant curriculum which immerses children in their learning;
- High expectations of all;
- Praise and celebration of achievement and effort;
- A commitment by all staff to embed policies, practices and ethos of the school;
- A positive relationship between home and school.

At Roebuck Academy, it is expected that children from an early age behave well and show respect for other people and their property.

Many positive reward systems are used in school, such as special achievement awards, certificates, stickers and special treats.

All of our children enjoy receiving praise!

“Pupils behave very well in lessons. They listen attentively to the teachers and work and play happily together.”

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## School Council

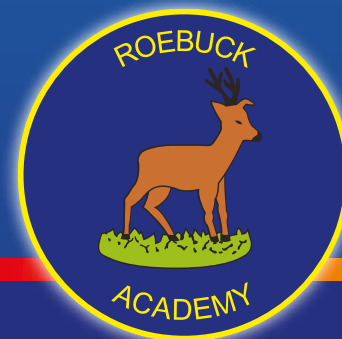
At Roebuck Academy, we believe that children's voices are important. We like our pupils to be independent, reflective and to help us plan for the future. We believe in listening to children and allowing them to have their own opinions and beliefs. Each year, every class votes for their class councillors. The School Council meets regularly to discuss school improvements and to share the opinions of their classmates with school staff. The School Council are also heavily involved in organising and delivering various events throughout the school year. We are very proud of our School Council.

## Child Protection

Roebuck Academy is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all children in school. Roebuck Academy follows the Hertfordshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership procedures. The school will, in most circumstances, endeavour to discuss all concerns with parents/carers about their children. The school's child protection and safeguarding policies are available on request.

“There is a strong culture of safeguarding in the school. Staff know the pupils well and so are able to spot any concerns straight away and act upon them.”

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## Illness or Injury

Many of our staff are first aid trained. However, should your child become unwell, you will be requested to collect them from school as soon as possible. Children who have been absent from school due to a sickness bug must remain at home for 48 hours after the symptoms have subsided. Should a child have a serious accident at school, a parent will be contacted and medical help sought if necessary. All minor accidents are recorded as well and these are reported to parents either verbally or by an accident slip. Children who feel unwell should not be sent to school. It would be helpful if parents could notify the school of any infectious illnesses. Eg: whooping cough; measles; etc. Should a parent require a child to remain indoors during school break-times for health reasons, then a request should be made in writing, or by telephone, to the school to inform the class teacher.

## Parents Learning Together

There are regular opportunities for parents to come into school to learn new skills. We work with other agencies to provide adult education in a relaxed, supportive environment. We regularly hold parental workshops in a range of subjects including: Reading, Phonics, Maths, Internet Safety, Healthy Living, Sex and Relationships Education and many more. Notice of dates will be posted onto the website and advertised in the parent newsletters. We are also very proud to have been awarded The Leading Parent and Partnership award.

## Home Learning

All children receive home learning, which will always be related to learning in school. Tasks and ideas are provided by teachers and we hope that parents will support their children with this important work at home. We expect all children to read daily. Younger children need to read with an adult whilst parents should question, and have a discussion with, older children about their reading. We also expect all children to complete daily practise of spellings, times tables and number bonds. Class teachers will support you with any questions you may have about home learning.

## Roebuck School Association (RSA)

When a child joins the school, their parents automatically become a member of the RSA. A group of parents meet regularly to plan and implement fundraising and social activities, such as discos and fairs. Should you have any new ideas or would be willing to give up some of your time to help, we would be delighted to hear from you. Just pop in to school and ask for further details from the main office.





## Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Act requires publicly funded bodies, including schools, to be clear about the information they publish. Details for this school can be found on the school's website and is provided to parents when their child first starts attending the school. You may also obtain a copy from the school office.

## Comments and Complaints

We aim to do the best for all our pupils and families. Any comments you have will be helpful to us to ensure that we achieve our aims. We all like to hear praise about our work and any compliments will be very welcome, but equally, if you have a problem or something concerns you, we want you to tell us about it. If you have any concerns about your child's education, you should contact the Headteacher who will be pleased to arrange an appointment with you.



“My child is always happy to go to school and is beaming when I pick him up. That's great to see.”  
Quote from a Parent







# Roebuck Academy

St. Margarets

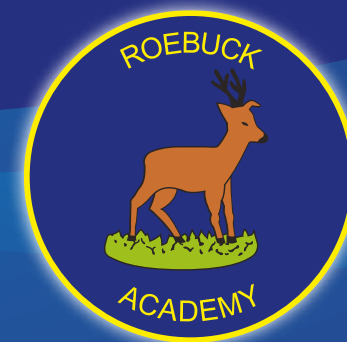
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