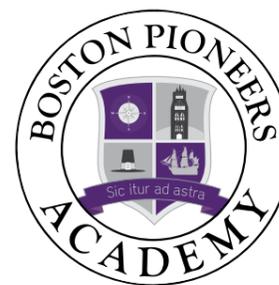


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Boston Pioneers
ACADEMY



Prospectus



Executive Headteacher: Adrian Reed
Head of Academy: Jo Bland

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Working in partnership
to raise achievement for all.

Welcome to Boston Pioneers Academy

A warm welcome to Boston Pioneers Free School Academy, Lincolnshire's first Free School catering for children between the ages of 5-11 years. As the shapers of future generations, our aim at Pioneers is to encourage and enable all children towards the realisation of their own unique talents. We aim to ignite within every child that passes through our Academy a love of learning through the provision of rich and exciting curriculum and, ultimately, help them to see that all accomplishments start with a dream, and that all dreams are possible. This is encapsulated in our Academy Motto: 'Sic Itur Ad Astra' (Thus one journeys to the stars).

At Pioneers we set the highest standards for our pupils in terms of both their academic success and their conduct. Our Academy is one centred on the traditional values of morality, thoughtfulness, co-operation and respect; yet one that also offers state of the art teaching and learning.

As a Free School we were born out of the needs of the community we serve and are uniquely designed to respond to these. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you personally to discuss what our Academy can offer your child.

Jo Bland
Head of Academy



Admissions

Admission Arrangements

The published criteria for admission to the Academy can be found on the Academy's website. Children enter the Academy in the September of the Academy year in which they turn five. All applications for places will be granted up to the published admissions number (PAN) set for each year group. After the admission of pupils with Educational Health Care Plans, where the Academy is recorded in the plan, we will use the following factors in priority order to decide which students will be given places, should demand exceed the number of places available:

- A. Children who are Looked After and all previously Looked After children.
- B. Children with a brother or sister at the Academy who will still be attending when the child is due to start or on who are on roll at the Academy at the time of application.
- C. Proximity to the Academy (according to the child's main residents).

If the proximity criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more applicants for the last remaining place then a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the Academy or working in the Children's Services Department at the Local Authority.





The Academy Day

As a recently founded Academy we are 'growing over time' - admitting a further 60 EYFS pupils a year until we reach capacity in 2019. At this point we should have 420 pupils in total divided into 14 mixed ability classes. For some subjects, children are taught in groups "set" by ability. The largest class size is 30. There are two classes per year group. A range of teaching styles are used to meet the individual needs of all pupils, these include a mixture of group work, individual learning and whole class teaching. The exact proportion will depend on the age of the children and the nature of the class and subject matter. Work is differentiated according to the child's ability.

Session Times

The Academy day starts promptly at 8:45 and ends at 3:15 pm. A sample daily timetable is outlined below:

Session Timing	EYFS	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
8:00 - 8:30	Breakfast Club (Last entry 8:20 am)		
8:30 - 8:45	Playground opens		
8:45 - 8:55	Registration		
8:55 - 9:45	Period 1 Phonics Sets	Period 1 Phonics Sets	Period 1 Phonics / SPAG Sets
9:45 - 10:30	Period 2 Literacy	Period 2 Literacy	Period 2 Literacy
10:30 - 10:45	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly
10:45 - 11:00	Break	Break	Break
11:00 - 12:00	Period 3 - Maths	Period 3 - Maths	Period 3 - Maths
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 - 1:30	Registration & Period 4	Registration & Guided Reading Period 4	Registration & Guided Reading Period 4
1:30 - 3:15		Period 5	Period 5

All teachers are entitled to 10% of their teaching time as non-contact PPA time (Planning, Preparation and Assessment). During this time your children are taught by qualified sports coaches and specialist music teachers who work closely with the children's class teacher to plan their sessions.

Wrap Around Care

Before Academy Provision

Pioneers operates a Breakfast Bar facility from 8:00 a.m. each morning. This facility offers a nutritious breakfast to pupils. There is no need to book to secure your child's place at breakfast club, simply turn up. However, any child attending the Breakfast Bar must be signed in to the facility by an adult at the hall door. Please note: Breakfast Bar closes promptly at 8:20 am. There are no exceptions to this rule.

After Academy Provision

Pioneers has an on-site After Academy Club run by The Home Nursery, High Street, Boston. Sessions run from 3:15 to 6pm daily and are paid on a per session basis. All staff are suitably qualified and the club is Ofsted registered. Sessions need to be booked in advance and registration forms and terms and conditions are available from the Academy office or direct from The Home Nursery.



The Curriculum

The Curriculum at Boston Pioneers Academy is especially designed to provide every child with inspirational learning activities which motivate, challenge and interest them. Our curriculum meets all of the National requirements of the Foundation Stage Curriculum and The National Curriculum.

Early Years

In the Foundation Years, our curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning and development.

The prime areas are:

Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

The specific areas are:

Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Outdoor learning is a vital part of a child's development and in the EYFS stage in particular, a significant emphasis is placed on outdoor learning as well as that done indoors.

Learning to Read, Reading to Learn!

At Pioneers, we adopt a 'Stage not Age' approach to teaching Phonics in order that all children are suitably challenged and no child is left behind. We dedicate significant amounts of curriculum time to teaching the basics as these skills underpin success in so many other areas.

Our Creative Curriculum

At Boston Pioneers we provide a creative curriculum based around the 'Cornerstones Curriculum': a nationally recognised approach for delivering outstanding learning opportunities for children through a thematic approach. Our curriculum is delivered through Imaginative Learning Projects (ILPs) which provide a rich menu of exciting and motivating learning activities that make creative links between all aspects of our children's learning.

We believe children learn better when they are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging contexts. Our curriculum provides lots of learning challenges throughout the academic year that require children to solve problems, apply themselves creatively and express their knowledge and understanding effectively across the curriculum.

Every year group will experience 6 Imaginative Learning Projects in a year. Each individual project is split into sections, which see children progress through four stages of learning: Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express.

Computing in the Curriculum

Computing is an integral part of teaching and learning at Pioneers and we are blessed with state of the art technology, including Lincolnshire's 1st 4D classroom!

Music

Music within the Academy is led by subject specialist teachers. No charge is made for music lessons relating to the National Curriculum entitlement given by the Academy. The Academy facilitates the provision of musical instrument tuition. A subsidised rate is normally made for these lessons.

PE

All children have 2 hours of PE time per week. One of these is taught by specialist sports coaches. The Academy is also a member of the Connect Schools' Sports Partnership and as such our pupils have access to a variety of extra-curricular clubs and inter-a events and competitions.

Religious Education

Although we are not a denominational Academy, we have a broadly Christian ethos. Different aspects of Christianity and the main world faiths are taught each year. Parent/Carers who wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child(ren) from Religious Education should seek an appointment with the Head of Academy.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

As an Academy, we strive to provide a range of extra-curricular clubs for children to enable them to follow individual interests and/or develop new skills. The clubs we offer change termly and range from cookery and choir to art and athletics.

Visits and Experiences

The Academy recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, trips, visitors and residential experiences can make towards children's personal and social education. The Academy aims to promote and provide such activities, both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the children and as additional optional activities.

Learning to Lead

We wish to instil in our pupils high levels of ambition. To this end we actively seek opportunities to help our children to practice leadership. These include children serving on the Academy Council, working as Junior Playground Leaders or 'Little Lunchies' in our Dining Hall or even being members of our Eco Council - 'Team Green'





Safeguarding

Pioneers Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of its children. We recognise that some children may be more vulnerable than others and take a considered and sensitive approach in order to support all our children. We take every reasonable precaution in making the Academy a safe environment for the children. The Head of Academy is the Academy's designated Safeguarding Officer.

Academy Meals

Academy Provided Lunches

Nutritious Academy lunches are cooked off-site by a local provider and are delivered to the Academy daily. Hot and cold options and special dietary needs are catered for.

Packed Lunches

If preferred, children may bring a packed lunch to the Academy. Please see our Packed Lunch Policy for guidance as to what is / is not allowed in packed lunch boxes.

Medical Matters

It is vital that the Academy is aware of any medical conditions, allergies etc. Staff at the Academy are only authorised to administer life-saving medication and only once suitable training has been undertaken. In situations where a child requires medicine that is not deemed to be 'life-saving', and a parent/carer or another member of the family must come into the Academy to administer the medication.

Meeting Every Individual's Needs

Special Curricular Arrangements for Pupils with SEND

All children are provided for according to their own individual needs. Some children may receive additional help as identified by their teachers. Where appropriate and in consultation with parents, we may seek the help of other professionals who specialise in supporting children with learning or behavioural difficulties or physical disabilities. Parents are informed and involved at each stage. If you are a parent of a child with SEND you can find more information about how our Academy could support your child by reading our Local Offer Statement available on the Academy website.

Equal Opportunities

The Academy's Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Equal Opportunities policies provide a clear benchmark and approach to ensure that no pupils are treated less favourably by others. In addition the Academy has an inclusion policy which is designed to make sure that every child has every need met. A copy of these policies can be accessed via the Academy's website.

'Friends of Pioneers'

The 'Friends of Boston Pioneers' consists of Parents, Staff and Friends of the Academy. The aim of this organisation is to work as a team to raise money for extra-curricular activities and resources. Without the help of these people many of the 'added extras' children enjoy, such as specialist visitors in the Academy, would simply be impossible to fund. If you can spare any time and would like to join us, please contact the Academy office.

Academy Uniform

Girls

- Pioneer Tartan Kilt
- Pioneer Purple Blazer
- Pioneer knitted Sweater
- A plain white shirt (not polo shirt)
- Plain grey tights (Plain white ankle socks are permitted in the summer term)
- Plain black formal leather flat shoes (no trainers)
- Plain black boots are only permitted in the Winter.
- Summer Uniform: Lilac Gingham Dress

Boys

- Pioneer Purple Blazer
- Pioneer knitted Sweater
- A plain white, long-sleeved shirt (not polo shirt)
- Academy tie
- Mid-grey formal trousers
- Plain black formal leather flat shoes (no trainers)
- Black/dark-grey socks
- **Summer Uniform:** Formal Grey Shorts

PE Kit

- Black tracksuit Bottoms or shorts
- Pioneer Purple Logo T-shirt
- Plain white ankle socks
- Black plimsolls (indoor) and white trainers (outside)

Outdoor Coats

A plain black or navy coat or jacket may be worn to and from the Academy.

Ordering Uniform

Nationwide Uniform provide our uniform. Uniform can be ordered via their website or from their shop in Spilsby.

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our Academy. The exceptions to this rule are earring studs in pierced ears (one stud per ear) and wrist watches. These items of jewellery must be removed for PE activities or parents must cover their children's ears with plasters on the days they have PE.

Attendance and Behaviour

At Pioneers we have very high expectations of our pupils and take a firm line on behaviour as, if children are to make the best possible progress, their learning must not be hampered by the behaviour of others. These expectations are outlined in our Academy Behaviour Policy.

As an Academy, we have six **'Golden Rules'**. All staff are encouraged to reward not only good work but good behaviour. This is done in a variety of ways including the awarding of 'Disney Cards'. 'Disney Cards' can then be exchanged for rewards once certain levels are reached.

Anti-Bullying

Pioneers Free School Academy is an inclusive school and we want every child to be safe and happy at the Academy. All members of the Academy community should be free from discrimination of any sort (as laid down in the Equality Act, 2010). To this end the Academy has a clear and comprehensive Anti-Bullying Policy that is known and understood by all and is consistently applied.

Absence

Should a child not attend the Academy, Parents/Carers are required to inform the Academy office of the reason for absence as soon as possible. This may be by letter, in person or by telephone. Failure to do so will result in an unauthorised absence being recorded. In the interest of pupil safety, absence should be reported to the Academy office (by telephone or in person) before the day commences on the morning of absence.

Where attendance rates are below 90%, a meeting will be called between the Education Welfare Officer, Head of Phase / Academy and parents/ carers and a way forward to improve attendance is agreed. In extreme cases of poor attendance, legal action may be taken.

Absence During Term Time

The aim of the Senior Management Team and the Governing Body is to work with you to enhance the achievements of the Academy and to build upon our successes. We would, therefore, ask for your support in improving Academy attendance by ensuring that requests for holidays in term-time are made only in exceptional circumstances.

No parent or carer has a right to withdraw a child from the Academy to go on holiday during term-time without the sole permission of the Academy's Executive Headteacher.

Any Parent/Carer wishing to be granted leave of absence must make their request in writing, giving at least two full week's notice. The Executive Headteacher may grant or deny the request.

Homework

The Academy provides purposeful homework that extends learning and helps to motivate all children to become resourceful and independent in their pursuit of new knowledge, skills and understanding. We ask parents to support us by making sure homework is completed conscientiously.

Children should read their reading book daily and learn their spellings (From Y1 up). Any child not yet ready to receive spellings should practice their sounds using the sound cards provided by the Academy.

Key Stage 1 children will get 1 or 2 pieces of homework per week in addition to reading.

Key Stage 2 children will get at least one piece of Maths and English homework per week in addition to reading.

It is vital that whereas parents are very much encouraged to be involved in homework, parents must not be tempted to do the work for children.

With Thanks

Thank you for taking the time to read this prospectus. I hope you found it interesting and informative. If you have further enquiries or wish to book a visit, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Academy.

