



MURRAY PARK

PROSPECTUS



“Our vision is nothing less than realising the full potential of every single student at Murray Park.”

At Murray Park we believe that there are many factors which contribute to a successful and happy secondary school experience. We believe every child is entitled to high quality teaching and learning, with a curriculum tailored to meet their individual needs. We also aim to provide a range of interesting and memorable enrichment activities. We strive for excellence in pastoral care in order to meet students’ needs beyond the formal curriculum – in other words, we are proud to look after our students well so that they feel safe and able to learn.

Our vision is captured in our five core values:

RESPECT

We respect all members of our community and value their differing strengths and talents. We respect everybody’s right to grow and learn with confidence.

ENJOYMENT

Our staff work with creativity, passion and energy to ensure that students enjoy learning and discover their talents.

ACHIEVEMENT

We believe everyone should strive to maximise their abilities and achieve their full potential.

CO-OPERATION

We value cooperation both within the school community and beyond.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

We expect everyone to attain high standards in work and conduct, so that they are fully prepared for a positive future beyond school.

What does this mean in practice? We would be pleased to welcome any parent who is considering us to come, visit and see for yourselves. Our students are our best ambassadors and you will be warmly welcomed. Please contact us to make an appointment if you would like to see us in action.

Regards,

Miss Rebecca Somes
Acting Headteacher

Murray Park School

Thank you for your interest in Murray Park School. On behalf of staff, students and governors, I would like to offer a warm welcome and the hope that this brochure provides an insight into the values and achievements which make this school so special.

We recognise that prospective students and their families want to know as much about the school as possible. On the following pages we have included some of the important information about Murray Park, although you can find out more about our school by visiting our website. If you would like to request more information or arrange a visit to the school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

'Students speak proudly of their school. They are friendly and well mannered'.

Ofsted June 2014

Murray Park School, situated in Mickleover, Derby, is a Foundation School. This means that the Governing Body retain ownership of the school and is the employer of the staff. It is a growing co - educational, comprehensive school for students aged 11 to 16 years. Just west of the city it draws from a wide range of primary schools.

'My child loves Murray Park.'
Parent of Year 9 student

Curriculum

'The choice of subjects offered to students is broad and matched well to their needs. Adaptations are made to meet individual needs, including off-site provision'.

Ofsted June 2014

'Inspirational teaching and enthusiastic learning are at the heart of our values; 'All students at Murray Park have equal rights of access to a curriculum that builds on their previous learning'.

All students in Years 7 to 11 follow the National Curriculum which is divided into core and foundation subjects.

Core Subjects - English, Mathematics and Science

Foundation Subjects - Art, Geography, History, ICT, Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish and French), Music, Physical Education, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Technology (including design) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education which includes Citizenship.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 follow a broadly-based curriculum which includes all the core and foundation subjects. Students are assessed on a half termly basis throughout the key stage.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum (Years 10 and 11)

Within the National Curriculum students continue to study a broad range of subjects until the end of Year 11. All students study English, Mathematics and Science at GCSE level and have an entitlement to study subjects in the Arts, Humanities, Languages and Technology Departments. The school has flourishing links with both Derby College and local secondary schools to work together in delivering high quality curriculum experiences.

'Teaching is typically good and sometimes outstanding...The best teaching is inspiring so that students take a delight in learning'.

Ofsted June 2014

Homework

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All students are required to do homework and we hope that you will encourage your child by providing a quiet space at home and by taking an interest in what they are doing. All students in Years 7 to 11 are given a planner in which to record their homework. Planners will be monitored by staff on a weekly basis and we ask you to check and sign them each week. If children appear to have major problems with work at home, it helps us greatly if you let us know.

Homework helps students become independent learners. It helps them to organise their work, complete work studied in class, test their understanding of a subject and sometimes attempt work which could not otherwise be covered in class.

'Students have a very clear picture of what they need to do to improve'.

Ofsted June 2014

Student Leadership and Student Voice

Education is not simply about lessons in a classroom, it is seizing every occasion to inspire in our students the thirst for knowledge and for them to be able to seize every opportunity they may encounter across their school life.

We believe that when young people are guided and enabled to take responsibility and lead others, they develop qualities such as resilience and independence which serve them well in later life. Students are therefore given opportunities to demonstrate leadership in lessons, on the sports field or as prefects; they are encouraged to help shape the school through contributions to the Year Councils and Junior Leadership Team and to help shape the world through participation in community activities and charitable events.

Our participation in the PiXL Edge programme, through our PSHE lessons, encourages all students to participate in activities both in and

out of school. The planning, execution and evaluation of these leads all students to a nationally recognised qualification which demonstrates not only their leadership and organization but also initiative and communication.

A Safe and Caring Environment

'It is vital to us that every student feels safe and happy at school. We have a strong sense of community and high standards of care'.

Rewards and Responsibilities

Good behaviour is vital to students' progress and achievement in school as well as developing personal responsibility in the community. The school has a stepped approach to sanctions which encourages positive behaviour and works alongside the rewards system.

Hard work, achievement and good behaviour are celebrated at Murray Park School. Students who do their best and perform well are rewarded with a variety of incentives such as positive phone calls home; postcards; gift vouchers and support for school trips. Rewards may be awarded for a number of reasons including outstanding work, evidence of progress in work, service to the school and community or involvement in extra-curricular activities such as sport or music. Reward trips also take place throughout the year for those who have good attendance and behaviour.

Pastoral Care

'Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is supported well in lessons, tutor time and assemblies'.

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The form tutor is the first point of contact and plays a central role in your child's school life: Each morning your child will participate in a variety of activities including;

- Planner/Uniform/Equipment check



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- Assembly
- Thought for the week
- Attendance monitoring

“Our daughter made excellent progress during her five years in the happy and positive environment at Murray Park School. The staff helped her to recognise her full potential and always made themselves available when she needed help.”

Parent of Y11 student

Behaviour Policy

‘The behaviour of students is good. Students are proud of their school... they are friendly and well-mannered and are respectful.’

Ofsted June 2014

We have a set of non-negotiables for pupils that are displayed in classrooms and regularly referred to by members of staff. These are used to support a code of conduct that results in a positive atmosphere for learning:

- Respect for everyone and everything including yourself
- No physical contact
- No Phones beyond the school gate
- Correct equipment for every lesson
- Correct uniform, including footwear
- Attendance to school and punctuality
- All work to be produced to the best standard possible including homework
- Accept responsibility for own learning and progress

Working together in Partnership

‘We want parents to feel involved in their child’s education and in the life of the school. We welcome parental participation and feedback and hope that we can build a successful partnership to support every child’.

We work hard to ensure we communicate effectively with parents. During the year

parents will have the opportunity to attend a parent consultation evening to discuss their child’s progress. They will receive termly progress reports showing Progress Indicators in all subjects as well as an effort grade and attendance information. Students’ progress is monitored closely by tutors and other staff. Students in danger of under-achieving are interviewed and supported.

In order to keep parents up to date with what is happening at school, we frequently send home newsletters, e-mails and text messages. In addition, we meet regularly with parents at our “Parents’ Forum”. These open meetings give parents a chance to discuss school life and contribute their ideas for improvement.

Careers information, advice and guidance

“We are proud of our students’ achievements and proud of the commitment our dedicated team of staff provide to on-going student achievement every year”.

Our commitment to the young people in our care extends beyond Year 11. We work alongside local colleges and sixth forms to ensure a smooth transition. When they leave us at 16 they have had the best possible preparation for the challenges they will face in the future.

Our Aspirations Careers and Employability Co-ordinator works closely with students to provide them with the advice they require. Students are given individual help at each stage, from choosing their subjects in Year 9 to post-school destinations. We are also able to provide an extensive employability and aspirations programme to all students across all years and we are very proud and happy to announce that we work very closely with Toyota as one of only two preferred partnership schools. This is hugely beneficial to our students



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Guidance and help are provided by the year teams of tutors and Heads of Year and related work is done in PSHE lessons. The school ensures that every young person receives a level of support according to their needs. This includes guiding students as they move on to college or work and giving advice and help to students who are facing difficulties with decision making, whether about personal choices or future careers. We hope that parents will also be closely involved in this process.

'Information, advice and guidance students receive is well coordinated and valuable. A good range of activities, including work experience, are arranged to help students plan for the future'. Ofsted June 2014

Enrichment Opportunities

At Murray Park, we place great emphasis on enriching and enhancing the learning of our students by encouraging them to try new challenges and experiences that will develop them as individuals beyond their academic studies. For many students, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has become a natural and increasingly popular choice at three award levels (Gold, Silver and Bronze). We also expect all of our students to participate in a nationally accredited programme called the PiXL Edge which enables them to participate in the wider community whilst building skills to support them in the future. For those talented, sporting students we offer highly successful accredited sports leadership programmes.

'A rich programme of after-school and out-of-school activities gives students good opportunities to develop their skills and talents'. Ofsted June 2014

We believe that school should provide good memories which last a lifetime and that learning takes place in many different ways and in many different environments. We

therefore offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including trips and visits and a wide range of clubs, activities and opportunities so that students can develop interests and talents beyond the formal curriculum.

Additionally, many of our subject areas offer clubs and activities and we have a well-planned sequence of 'Employability Days' for all year groups, where students are able to develop their independence and creativity by working on day-long team projects.

Passionate about Arts

Creative arts play an important part in the life of the school. Every encouragement is given to our young musicians, artists, actors and technicians. Students participate enthusiastically in termly concerts, plays and at a host of events within the school and beyond. All of these serve to enhance their experience of the requirements, joys and terrors of public performance! The school has excellent facilities, including a suite of purpose-built classrooms, a recording studio and drama studio.

Passionate about Sport

We believe that school should encourage lifelong passions and interests. We give students the opportunity to participate in team sports such as football, rugby, netball and basketball as well as individual activities including badminton, table tennis, trampolining and many more.

Aside from developing physical and mental strength and stamina, we believe sport helps students to develop skills such as leadership and co-operation which are necessary throughout life.

Transition from Year 6 to 7

'We believe that the support Murray Park offers each child and their parents through this crucial stage in their lives, makes for a



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successful and smooth transition from primary to secondary school.

At Murray Park, we have excellent partnerships with all our primary schools and our established and successful transition programme enables students to move seamlessly into secondary education.

Before your child joins Murray Park School, extensive liaison will have taken place. We make sure that we know about friendship groups and academic abilities so that we can ensure a smooth transition. Some of our transition work includes

- Every child receiving a visit from a key member of our transition team.
- Collecting essential information for us to know your child.
- A tailored Induction Day.
- Additional induction time for students who may need extra support.
- Regular communication and updates for families.
- Summer School

We recognise that this is an unsettling, yet exciting, time in a young person's life. Our Transition Co-ordinator visits schools and works regularly with the Year 6 students transferring to Murray Park School. Students also have many opportunities to visit and participate in a range of activities so that they join us with an understanding of the expectations and opportunities at Murray Park.

We run a vibrant Summer School for children that we believe will benefit from some extra support with their transition. Students gain in confidence and familiarise themselves with the site. They participate in a variety of fun activities, where sessions help to develop self-esteem and friendships.

"My child has really settled into Year 7, the help and support given by the school is outstanding. The summer scheme was

excellent, which gave my child confidence to start Year 7."

Parent of Year 7 student.

We also offer a scheme that runs during the autumn term to further support any students that have found the transition more challenging. This support is offered through informal activities, allowing Year 7 students to develop their friendships whilst dealing with common challenges that may arise.

'There are good arrangements to make sure that students from primary schools make a smooth transition to Murray Park'.

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Admissions

Applications for admission will be considered from pupils, who are aged 11 without reference to aptitude or ability. The admission number for September 2018 is 220.

Priority for admission will be given to children whose parents have requested a place using the Common Application Form. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places then the following criteria will apply.

1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order 67.
2. Those living in the defined "normal catchment" area.
3. Siblings of those pupils who will be attending the school at the date of admission, in order of proximity
4. Proximity to the school

In the event of oversubscription, the above criteria will be applied. In cases of a tiebreaker for applications of equal strength, preference will be given to the applicant with the shorter proximity to the school measured by the



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shortest available route from the home to the main school entrance.

Parents of children not offered a place will be informed of their right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

"I feel very confident that I made the right choice for my child. He seems happy and is doing well and enjoying lessons."
Parent of Year 7 student.

Attendance and Punctuality

As a school, we are anxious that each student gains the most from school through maximum possible attendance. Research has shown that achievement is directly linked to attendance. Students with a high attendance record usually perform better in class and in examinations.

All students should have full attendance unless they are absent due to illness. When absence does occur form tutors will expect a note from parents giving the reason. Your co-operation in this matter is requested so that unnecessary telephone calls from our Attendance Officer can be avoided. We also ask parents to make every effort to try to arrange medical and other appointments out of school hours.

Students are expected to be punctual. Being late for registration will be officially recorded in registers and may incur a detention. Having registered at school, no student will be allowed to leave the premises without parental authorisation or permission from school.

Acceptable school uniform

All students are expected to wear uniform and we appreciate parents and students working with us to keep our school smart. Approved school uniform; jumpers and ties can be purchased from our school supplier. All uniform should be marked with the student's names.

Basic Uniform

White **formal** shirt

Navy blue Murray Park logo Jumper or cardigan

Black **formal knee length skirt** or **black formal trousers**

School tie

Black formal shoes (no boots or trainers)

Dark colour winter coat (no hoodies, denim or leather)

Our complete uniform policy is available on our website.

Policies

Meeting the requirements of children with Special Educational Needs: Admission of students with disabilities

All students are accepted, in accordance with the standard admission procedures. A student's disability will not be cause for discrimination when applying for a place at Murray Park and the Governing Body has due regard for the practice advocated in the Code of Practice.

Disability Equality Scheme and Access Arrangements

Murray Park is committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all its students. The aim is to develop a culture of inclusion which allows everyone to participate fully in school life. Achievement of all students is monitored carefully and data is used to raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching.

All students have access to the full curriculum and it is sufficiently flexible to respond to individual needs. The site aims to cater for those with disabilities and modifications to the existing building have made most areas accessible. Most buildings were deliberately designed as single storey with wheelchair access and facilities for people with a disability.



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The school has an access plan which aims to work towards full inclusion; all of our students receive a mainstream education and become independent learners. The ethos of the school ensures that all students understand how everyone can make a positive contribution to society.

Any student may have difficulty with aspects of their school work at some time in their school career. Those who we identify as having additional needs will be given extra support. We may withdraw a student from lessons for extra tuition in a small group, or may provide extra teaching support or Teaching Assistant within the normal lesson. All staff monitor the work of the students they teach and discuss any problems with learning support staff as they arise.

Religious Education

Religious Education is part of the curriculum throughout the school. It is taught in accordance with the Derbyshire agreed syllabus. Parents who wish to exercise their right, on religious grounds, to withdraw their child from these lessons should write to the Headteacher. This also applies to parents who do not wish their child to attend assembly, which may on occasions include a religious content.

Sex Education

Part of the PSHE programme in Years 7, 8 and 9 covers topics such as development at adolescence, relationships, family issues and a first look at contraception. The programme in Years 10 and 11 continues to look at relationships, individual rights and responsibilities, contraception and sexually-transmitted diseases. Factual information about sexual reproduction also forms part of the National Curriculum Science course at both Key Stages.

As required by law, the programme of sex education is approved by the governors. Parents who wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from Sex Education lessons should write to the Headteacher. This right does not include Sex Education where it forms part of the National Curriculum.

Child Protection Policy

The school is required to take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its students. Where there are concerns that a student may be subject to ill treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, the Headteacher is obliged to inform Social Services of the school's concern. This is in line with Child Protection procedures laid down by the Local Authority.

The Data Protection Act

The Headteacher and the Governors of Murray Park are registered under the Data Protection Act. We ask that parents help us to keep information up to date by returning information for checking as quickly as possible. The subject of any data, or the parents, if the subject is a student, has the right of access to that information, to check its validity.

Contact with School

"Every day is an Open Day at Murray Park School" and you are always welcome to come in and look around whilst lessons are in progress.

Please contact us by email or by telephone before visiting, so that the most appropriate member of staff can meet you.

Useful contacts

Chair of Governors Mr P Davies
Acting Headteacher Miss R Somes
Deputy Headteacher Mrs P Bowler
Assistant Headteacher Mrs H Boyce
Assistant Headteacher Mr R Whyman



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Head of Year 7 Miss V Gray
Transition Co-ordinator Mrs T Day
SEN Co-ordinator Mrs S Hubbard

about all school activities, achievements and policies including other publications produced by the school are available on the school website at: www.murraypark.derby.sch.uk

This brochure offers a snapshot of the rich and balanced educational experience on offer at Murray Park School. More information

The details in this publication are correct at the time of going to press. Arrangements for the school year or subsequent school years may be subject to alteration.

Please ask about a tour

‘Every day is an
Open Day at
Murray Park’



Miss Somes and the senior team will be pleased to show you round during the school day



Where Learning Comes First



'There are good arrangements to make sure that students from primary schools make a smooth transition to Murray Park'

Ofsted June 2014



"I believe that the support Murray Park offers each child and their parents through this crucial stage in their lives, makes for a successful and smooth transition from primary to secondary school"

Parent of Year 8 Student



"My child has really settled into Year 7, the help and support given by the school is outstanding. The summer scheme was excellent which gave my child confidence to start Year 7."

Parent of Year 7 Student





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